

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – April 4, 2014

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from March 31, 2014. M. Case seconded that motion and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. R. Borgnis was videoing the meeting.
4. Peter Blake, Veterans' Agent, told the Board that he has begun research to compile an accurate list of Washington residents who have honorably served the U.S. in wartime. He has preliminary lists of veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars. He asked the board how he might go about getting additional names for this list. The Board suggested that he write a piece for the Tracks asking readers to review his current list and to contact him with any additional veterans' names. P. Blake is also looking for the names of local soldiers from the Civil War and the Revolution. J. Nelson mentioned that he could find many of these in the Town History.

When he has completed his research he plans to give the information to the Town to use on a proposed new memorial marker or monument of a suitable nature. We have two granite markers now for World War I and II veterans. He does not expect that the Town will be ready to make decisions on the type of memorial or its location for another six to twelve months. He suggested that at that time the Board appoint a committee to decide on a proper memorial. The Board asked him to take the lead in this project.

J. Huebner mentioned the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as a possible source of funds for the Memorial, if the Town adopts the Act at this year's Annual Town Meeting. The CPA would give us state funds to match our own pool of money. The Board asked J. Nelson to send P. Blake contact information for the Tracks. J. Huebner asked S. Lennon, the Town Sexton to get P. Blake a list of all those interred in Town cemeteries. S. Lennon said

he would consult with Richard Grillon, Assistant Sexton, on this. P. Blake is going to survey the cemetery behind his house on Ryan Road.

5. J. Nelson told the Board that she will not be able to attend the MassBuys Expo in Worcester on May 1<sup>st</sup>. She said that she and J. Hostetter will discuss attending the upcoming Choke Saver and Temporary Food Safety courses in Pittsfield sponsored by the Berkshire Public Health Alliance (BPHA).
6. J. Huebner reminded the Board that he had passed out a recommended fee schedule for Board of Health services last week. The fees were developed by BPHA, based on their experience working with member towns over the last year. He asked M. Case and S. Lennon to briefly review the fees again. He pointed out that the new fees are commensurate with the actual time that each service typically requires. Other than the fact that we do not charge a fee for beaver removal, the list conforms to the services that the Town has used or is likely to use. M. Case made a motion to approve the fee schedule as presented. J. Huebner seconded the motion and the vote to accept the recommended Board of Health fees was unanimous. J. Huebner asked that the minutes recording this vote be sent to the BPHA once they are approved by the Board.
7. J. Huebner mentioned that he has spoken with P. Clark about the projects he is currently working on for the Town. He told the Chair that he will attend next week's Selectmen's meeting to give them an update on progress.
8. The Board will re-schedule the visit of our public health nurses which was planned for April 21. That is the date of the state Patriot's Day holiday and there will be no Board meeting.
9. J. Huebner mentioned that the annual Berkshire County Selectmen's Dinner will take place this Thursday evening in Lee. Chief Breen has purchased our raffle gift. He reminded attendees again that the COA dinner will be held at Ozzie's on April 15.
10. J. Huebner reported that the Board has been told unofficially by a contact at the Lenox DOT headquarters that the appropriation to reconstruct

Washington Mountain Road (WMR) has been taken off the bill now moving through the legislature. He had phoned Senator Downing and representative Pignatelli several times recently for a status update, but neither returned his calls. In response to this purported action by the legislature, J. Huebner wrote a strongly worded letter objecting to both the cancellation of the WMR project and to the lack of communication with the Town about the state's decision. He read the letter into the record. It is attached to these minutes. In his letter, the Chair pointed out that "What was a bad situation twenty years ago is now intolerable. If indeed there is no funding, we have no choice but to safeguard our citizens by closing the road to through traffic." He expressed hope that the project is still going forward, but to date we have no official word. He made a motion to send the letter. S.Lennon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. In addition to Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli, copies of the letter were also sent to several officials at MassDOT, the Secretary of Transportation, Congressman Neal and Governor Patrick. The Governor was added to the list after J. Huebner made a motion to this effect, which was again seconded by S. Lennon. The vote to copy the Governor on our letter was unanimous.

- 11.J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from CBRSD Superintendent Cameron informing us that Washington presently has one student registered for vocational education for the 2015 school year. That is Tyler Lampro who is a student at McCann Technical.
12. J. Huebner asked Town Clerk, Allison Mikaniewicz, to confirm important upcoming dates. She told the Board that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 at 7:00 pm. Town elections will be held on Saturday May 17 from 12:00pm to 4:00 pm.
- 13.G. Grogan told the Board that he has talked with our payroll company about the process for switching from weekly to bi-weekly payroll. We can save about \$1,000 per year by making this change. The savings is mainly on postage. We will actually pay a surcharge for their extra bookkeeping in computing the check amounts and tax withholding which will reduce our overall savings. Discussion of when to switch over to bi-weekly payroll followed. M. Case suggested that we start the new schedule on July 1, at

the start of the new fiscal year. There was general agreement on this date. The first paychecks under the new scheme would go out on July 11. In response to a question from the Chair, G. Grogan said that we have about \$ 15,000 to pay on the USDA loan for the Town garage. He also mentioned that we need an additional \$3500 for medical insurance for the highway crew. All agreed that it would be beneficial to pay off the USDA loan in 2015, as we will take on additional debt if we go ahead with purchase of the new plow truck. J. Huebner said that the Finance Committee should discuss this question. M. Case agreed to tell them.

14. The Board acknowledged that J. Hostetter had suggested that the Town consider reviving the practice of issuing Certificates of Appreciation to residents who had rendered significant service to the Town over the past year or so at each Annual Town Meeting. The Board will follow up on this at their next meeting.
15. Chief Breen told the Board that he had researched training requirements for the use of the Town defibrillator. The training must also include CPR. The cost is \$25.00 per trainee and the class size must be at least 8 people. He has found a teacher. The Board must decide who will get trained. They agreed that the trainees must be people who spend considerable time at Town Hall and that the defibrillator will be stored there. Chief Breen will go ahead with ordering the re-build of our present defibrillator. There was discussion of where to store the device. A cubby in the hall was identified. M. Case suggested that the Board ask Ed Bond to build a door for the enclosure. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to talk to G. Grogan regarding insurance for the device and about the Town's liability. The Treasurer should speak to his contact at MIIA.
16. J. Huebner mentioned receiving a letter from DEP listing many upcoming programs including sustainable materials recovery. He will contact them for dates and times.
17. J. Huebner asked the Administrative Assistant to confirm with the Town Clerk how long the Town is required to keep Executive Session minutes sealed.

18.J. Nelson, alternate delegate to Wired West, told the Board that they had met with Bill Stathis, a representative from Crocker Communications of Greenfield, who is preparing a proposal to provide internet and phone services to Town Hall using the MBI switch. The meeting took place at Town Hall and G. Grogan was able to provide information on our current phone charges. The representative noted that our charges are very high largely due to the fact that they are based on out-dated Verizon flat rates and that Crocker could certainly deliver considerable savings.

19.The Board discussed the current update to the Finance Committee’s work on the FY 2015 budget. They had nothing new to add.

20. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes written by J. Nelson