

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 12, 2014

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance for the board were J. Huebner, Shaun Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from May 5, 2014. M. Case seconded and the motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.
3. Mike Burke addressed the Board on the subject of the many potholes which need filling on Washington Mountain Road. M. Case told him that Lane Construction was out on the Road today spray- marking the potholes to be filled. M. Case thought this work was in preparation for the state to lay down the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of asphalt they had committed to the Town and that they would fill the potholes before paving. Based on the potholes being marked, it appeared that the state will also pave the Dalton end of the road. J. Huebner asked M. Case to speak to Mass DOT in Lenox to confirm that this is the case.
4. M. Case will attend the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in Pittsfield tomorrow. He will confirm whether or not the Town is on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) list for 2018. This is the time frame the state has proposed for the re-scheduled reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road.
5. M. Case asked that the Highway Department place hazard warning signs where both Schulze and Frost Roads meet Washington Mountain Road (WMR). A summer resident had reported destroying 2 tires as a result of turning onto WMR with no warning of how bad the road condition was.
6. Heidi Nugent addressed the Board on the subject of the proposed additional chip sealing of Town roads this spring. She expressed the opinion that such work would create more problems and expense for residents still angry about the tar damage to personal property that occurred after the original round of chip sealing last year. She had

personally to replace tar-damaged shoes and mower blades and clean off both her dogs and car numerous times. She lives on Summit Hill Road and that became impossible to walk on for weeks without picking up tar and gravel. She said that she and many others are strongly opposed to further tarring of the roads. It had been done in the past with the same poor result. She said that the tar has finally set and she hopes that will be the end of it. If we do decide to do further tarring, she requested an early warning.

The Board told her that the contractor had offered to come back and re-do any areas that we felt were not properly finished in the original job. They had reimbursed the Town for half of our cost in laying down sand to control the excess tar. Residents can still file claims for any tar damage they suffered. The Town doesn't have to go ahead with the chip seal repairs offered by the contractor if we believe they are not needed. J. Huebner asked D. Fish his opinion on this and told him that if it doesn't absolutely have to be done, not to request the contractor do any repairs. He will inspect the roads with this in mind and report back to the Board before making any decision.

7. J. Huebner confirmed the date for the Joint Meeting on Capital Assets for the Select Board, Finance Committee and Planning Board to be June 16. Dick Spencer said that we can do our transfers at that time. We can schedule a Special Town Meeting for June 23rd or 30th if we need it. Winter Roads can transfer within the Highway Department budget. D. Spencer reported speaking to Kent Lew about filing the vacant seat on the Finance Committee.
8. D. Fish presented the Board with paperwork on the total price and purchase details for the new plow truck. The Board told him that M. Burke had informed them that the old plow truck is worth \$40,000 and asked him to get written quotes on its value. If it is worth a substantial amount of money the Town will certainly sell it.
9. D. Fish told the Board that he had received a complaint from Mr. Gumlaw who claimed that culvert drainage from the road flows onto their property. D. Fish will inspect the situation and install a larger

drain at the resident's driveway if it is needed. J. Huebner asked him for a copy of his highway maintenance plan. D. Fish said that the new pipe for Lower Valley Road is ready to be picked up and he will do so. Regarding the Transfer Station driveway paving, D. Fish to ask DOT if we can use some of the "pothole funds" for this work. We have to use the money before the end of the month of June.

10. For the record, the Board stated that they are entirely satisfied with the work of the Finance Committee. The Committee is working on a long range financial plan for the Town.
11. J. Huebner signed the contract for internet phone and broadband service for Town Hall with Crocker Communications. The estimate is that this will save the Town about \$270 per month and provide far better service than we now have from Verizon.
12. J.Huebner reported receiving notice from Harris Aaronson & Associates law firm offering the Town the right to purchase 22 forested acres along Middlefield Road adjacent to Becket and also offering the right to waive purchase of the parcel. The land is in tax taking status. After conferring with the Assessors and Town Clerk, the Board decided to waive their option to purchase. J. Huebner signed and the Town Clerk notarized the document.
13. J. Hostetter reported to the Board that she is still receiving a few business census forms in the mail and continues to enter the data into the spreadsheet. J. Huebner said that next month's Selectmen's Letter for the Tracks will remind those residents who have not yet returned their forms to please do so. The Administrative Assistants will follow up with those who do not reply. The Board instructed her to mail the Certificates of Appreciation announced at the Annual Town meeting to the Borgnis family and to the Kennedys. J. Hostetter told the Board that the Park Commission is going to revise their application and permit forms for use of the Town Park.
- 14.D. Parnell told the Board that the Joint Capital Assets meeting date of June 16 is good for him. We do not have the CIC grant funding yet.

He will cut checks tomorrow, but they should be held until the funds come in. Money for the Crocker contract is available in Building Repairs.

15. Glenn Grogan told the Board that he will arrange to have a slip inserted along with the paychecks to remind employees of the switch to bi-weekly payroll which will start in July. J. Huebner gave him a letter he had received regarding retirement reporting requirements. The Board confirmed that the Town has no post employment financial responsibilities as it offers no pensions or other financial benefits. Regarding the Board's intention to offer the highway crew a lump sum payment equal to their raise to help with the transition to bi-weekly payroll, D. Parnell said that this would amount to a bonus and that municipalities cannot give bonuses. J. Huebner asked him to research what our options are. The Board will take up this question again next week. Our insurance will cover use of the defibrillator as long as it is used IN the building. Extended coverage is available if we want that. The insurance company did cover us for the Forester's charges in the repairs to the Drugmand's property.
16. Chief Breen has to schedule the defibrillator training for a date early next month. He will offer options to the Board.
17. J. Huebner commented briefly on the following items.
 - a. No news on the logging on Depot Brook at Route 8.
 - b. Dave Davidson of Mass DOR to send information on remote support for the CIC municipal accounting software program.
 - c. No new information on the Tennessee Pipeline.
 - d. J. Hostetter to prepare appointment list and reviews. The Cultural Council needs more members. The treasurer's term is expiring.
 - e. Town elections next Saturday, 5/17 from noon to 4:00.
 - f. There will be no Selectmen's meeting on 5/26, Memorial Day.
 - g. Meeting notices received: June 4 BOBOHA at Berkshire Hills Country Club; June 16 course at Berkshire County Jail; May 28 and 29 MEMA emergency management at Worcester; June 18

public information training in Hadley; May 14 Berkshire County
Headstart Executive Board Meeting in Pittsfield

18. JH made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. M. Case seconded
and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson