

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - June 2, 1914

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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 of May 19, 2014. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner signed various Chapter 90 project requests including that for the new plow truck. These will be given to Town Accountant Dan Parnell for processing. D. Fish submitted performance reviews for the highway crew to the Board. The Board thanked him, stating that the reviews were well written, detailed and complete. D. Fish had conducted interviews with both of his employees. Asked about culvert progress, D. Fish told the Board that the Lower Valley Road culvert had been replaced. Summit Hill culvert has not been worked on yet. As directed, he had gotten quotes from Minuteman Truck on the two older trucks. He was quoted \$8600 for the 2002 truck and \$9500 for the 1997 truck. J. Huebner stated that we need to get more quotes, perhaps put it out to bid or try to auction it off. D. Fish was asked to give the quotes to Treasurer Glenn Grogan.
4. Resident Heidi Nugent told the Board that the tar laid down last spring by Comer Contractors is bleeding again. Based on past experience, she expects that it will bleed all summer. She said that if the Town puts down sand again the contractor should pay for it. She advised that there really is nothing that can be done at this point except wait it out. Three years is what it usually takes for the tar to finally set, in her opinion.
5. J. Huebner said that he had received a request from E. Bond, Park Commission Chair, that the Town use some of the pothole money to re-pave the basketball court. J. Huebner replied that we cannot use the pothole funding to repair the court. E. Bond said that he had used crack filler for repairs but that didn't work. D. Fish said that he should use Perma-Patch for this job and that he has a supply the Park Commission can use. He will donate it and some labor on Park clean up day. E. Bond mentioned that he will be on vacation in California and that Dave Drugmand will cover Park Commission business while he is away.

6. J. Huebner said that the Town had received a check from SolarCity in the amount of \$50.00. This was the permitting fee for installing solar panels on his home.
7. Chief Breen told the Board that he will be handling an emergency preparedness audit requested by the state. He has scheduled the defibrillator training for Thursday, 6/26 in the evening at Town Hall. Training will be limited to those who have offices at Town Hall. He also mentioned that he had been contacted by Mr. Barry of FEMA who informed him that the Town is eligible to apply for over \$10,000 in grants, which would cover equipment costs for items like chain saws, radios, cones etc. Chief Breen will complete the grant application. These are matching funds which we would get from the state. Paul Mikaniewicz is our Emergency Manager and main representative to FEMA.
8. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from Robert Nunes, Deputy Commissioner at DOR, that as payment in lieu of taxes for use of our watershed, the City of Pittsfield must pay Washington \$93,0866.92 for 2014. J. Huebner requested that a copy of this letter go to Financial Committee Chair, D. Spencer and Dan Parnell. On other state financial matters, J. Huebner confirmed that we are on the TIP list for the complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road (WMR) in 2018. The state is now busy re-paving WMR with about 1" of asphalt. The cost to the state for this work is over \$800,000. After a short discussion, consensus seemed to be that by 2018, the current paving job will be seriously degraded by many factors including leaking culverts, the unstable clay under the surface and the heavy volume of traffic.

J. Huebner reported that he had written letters to our political delegation in Boston, our DOT contacts and the Governor. The letters voice our appreciation for their support of our Washington Mountain Road efforts and ask for their continuing support to make the total re-construction of WMR happen in 2018. Jim read the letter into the record. He made a motion that the Board accept the letter and sign it. M. Case seconded and the vote to sign was unanimous.

9. J. Huebner told the Board that he had attended the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative dinner hosted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission last week. From that presentation he learned of new grant money to be made available by the state for municipal solar installations. He contacted the company which had put together a proposal to install a solar array on the Town Hall roof last year. They are still interested in working with us. We had decided not to go forward with this project based on the price. However if we were to secure one of these grants that would be doable. We could conceivably cover the costs of all electricity used in both Town Hall and the Garage. We could apply for about \$60,000 for the project. Work on the grant application will start this week.

10. A local resident asked the Board when the culvert on Old Middlefield Road would be repaired. Neither the fire trucks nor wood delivery trucks can get over it any more. She is concerned about fire. D. Fish confirmed that he is well aware of the situation and has started the process of getting approvals for the work. There is a lengthy compliance process, as many state and national permitting groups, including the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Parks Service and Westfield Wild and Scenic have to sign off on it before he can even begin to work. The process is in motion now and should take another 4 to 6 weeks. Phil Clark is aware of the work needed. The Board asked D. Fish to tell him that we now have a complaint about the culvert and perhaps that will help to expedite permitting. J. Huebner said that the Board of Health can also declare a health emergency.

11. Pete and Ann Goucher of Cross Place Road asked the Board for an extension on their Title 5 certification because they are trying to sell their home. They have been living there only part time. J. Huebner made a motion to give the Gouchers a 3 month extension on their Title 5 certification. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

12. The Board reported receiving an application from Bob Cooper of Becket to hold his wedding reception in our Town Park. Ed Bond had signed off on this. Chief Breen has to sign too.

13. J. Huebner signed the Waste Ban Plan prepared by P. Clark, Conservation Commission Chair, for the Transfer Station. Copies to be maintained at Town Hall and the Transfer Station. J. Huebner also signed the Waste Ban Certification. This form must be returned to P. Clark who will forward it to the MassDEP. A signed copy must be maintained at Town Hall and the Transfer Station.
14. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had spoken to Richard Vinette, attorney for the prospective buyer of Bucksteep. She emailed him regarding the requirement to re-apply for all permits after the sale. This attorney was only concerned with the liquor license. He has not sent an application to the Town yet. The Board believes the sale has not closed because the septic has not been inspected. No Title five certification has been filed with the Town. They advised J. Hostetter that all of the responsibility for applying for the required permits is the buyer's.
15. J. Huebner made a motion to appoint John Les the remote IT contact for the municipal accounting software project for which we have been awarded a grant under the CIC program. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. The Board signed the MOU from Community Software Consortium.
16. D. Fish asked the Board for clarification of their decision on raises for the Highway crew. There had been much discussion of this several months back. Adam Southard has since then received his hydraulics license as he promised when he was hired. D. Fish wants to have the correct figures before the beginning of FY15 at the end of this month. Both men are at \$17 now. The Board referred him to Glenn Grogan, Treasurer and also concurred that he should review the minutes for the exact agreement. J. Huebner made a motion that the Town switch to bi-weekly payroll. M. Case seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
17. G. Grogan told the board that the Town could not pay the highway crew an advance to ease the transition to bi-weekly payroll. He has researched it and legally, the Town cannot do this. G. Grogan told the Board that he has done all insurance applications. He had questions on public officials' liability claims and several on updating. He asked if the liability coverage was just

for elected officials or for all town employees. The Board referred him to our insurer MIIA for answers. He will renew registration on the new school bus and send it to MIIA to get stamped. He will close down two small accounts we have at Berkshire Bank and transfer those funds to our general fund account at TD Bank. The accounts are for small annual payments made to the Town Clerk like dog licenses.

18. Selectmen began reviewing appointments and will continue next week. They confirmed that S. Conners had been appointed Inspector of Lumber at Town Meeting. Dave Weissbrod expressed interest in an appointment to the Historical Commission. J. Hostetter is to contact all appointees currently listed to confirm their interest in continuing. The Cultural Council has an urgent need for 2 new members.

19. J. Nelson is to continue calling residents who have not yet responded to the business census form.

20. The Board reviewed D. Fish's performance evaluation positively.

21. M. Case reported that the two commemorative signs for WMR are being made. They will read "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans' Scenic Byway" and will be about one foot by two feet in size. They will be placed at each end of the Washington portion of the Road. He also mentioned that we can expect aggressive enforcement of speed limits by the state police.

J. Huebner commented briefly on the following:

- a) There will be a childrens' book sale at the Becket Washington School on June 12.
- b) A Project Selection Advisory Committee chaired by Jim Lovejoy will establish criteria for project selection on a statewide basis.
- c) No news on Westfield Wild and Scenic on the work in Depot Brook at Route 8, the cemetery land from Pittsfield, Cross Place, Eden Glen. There will be a hearing Friday on Farnam Dam.
- d) D. Fish to get road maintenance plan from P. Clark.

22. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson