

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - 6/9/14

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and S. Lennon. M. Case was expected later in the evening.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from June 2, 2014. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. The Board asked for an update on the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative from J. Nelson. She told the Board that she had reviewed all of the information about the grant program on the DOER website. Her conclusion was that that this grant will not cover the cost of installing solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall as we had intended. In fact the DOER materials indicate that they will not provide funding for “the portion of the cost of the clean energy equipment that is already financially incentivized by other state, federal, utility, non-profit or private programs”. As an example they cite that no funding will go to “solar photovoltaic panels that qualify for Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC’s) and net metering.” This is exactly the type of installation the Board had planned for Town Hall.

J. Nelson called Brian Domina at BRPC to discuss the program. He agreed that the program does not provide funding for the type of solar power system that the Town needs. We would first have to install the solar panels at our own expense to benefit from this grant. The focus of the grant is on funding clean energy storage in systems like battery backup and on the electronic controls which would allow a building to function on a stand-alone status when the regional power grid fails. J. Nelson will continue to try to reach the project manager at DOER to discuss the Town’s needs.

4. J. Huebner reported that he had attended a meeting at BRPC on the Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline. The company had conducted open meetings in several of the Berkshire municipalities most affected by the proposed route of the pipeline. Attendees included Sandisfield, Dalton, Richmond and Pittsfield. The general consensus was that this project will go forward. Not much discussion was devoted to the environmental impact. The impacted towns generally supported the pipeline and were interested in

how to position themselves to benefit from it. The pipeline would cross a very small corner of Town. J. Huebner also mentioned that Governor Patrick was in the news for the ceremonial ground-breaking of the complete reconstruction of Tyringham Road, a major project slated to begin in July to be completed in 2015.

5. Veterans' Agent Peter Blake congratulated the Board on their decision to approve the designation of Washington Mountain Road (WMR) as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Scenic Byway". Local veterans are very pleased with this recognition. Signs designating the "Byway" are being made up. The dedication will take place sometime in July. The Board wants to invite Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Ben Downing to the dedication. After some discussion, Saturday was chosen as the best day to get people out to attend. Eleven o'clock was selected as the time for the ceremony. The actual date is to be confirmed with the delegation's offices to ensure that they can attend and will be set when that is clarified. The actual dedication ceremony will also be planned later.

Peter Blake told the Board that he has accepted the position of veterans' agent for Hinsdale in addition to his work here in Washington. He is glad that Washington has a proactive outlook on veterans affairs. He has received another name for our Washington Vietnam veterans list. This soldier is Will Rodgers.

6. J. Huebner mentioned that at the Peru Annual Town Meeting last Saturday the article to protect the town from commercial scale wind turbine development passed by a 2/3 vote.
7. J. Huebner reported receiving a request from Berkshire Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board to name our representative to that organization. Mike Case was re-appointed to this post.
8. D. Fish reported to the Board that Ernie Lampron has offered to fix the bathrooms in the Town Park. He will give that information to Dave Drugmand of the Park Commission. D. Fish said that he is willing to help with this and that several others will join him to get it done on Park Clean-

Up Day. Glenn Grogan advised D. Fish and the Board about the status of raises for the highway crew. Tom and Adam each receive \$17 per hour now. They will be raised to \$18 per hour on July 1. D. Fish is currently at \$22 per hour. D. Fish said that he believes the department should get raises across the board and that he is entitled to a \$1.00 per hour raise also. S. Lennon made a motion to grant this raise to D. Fish. J. Huebner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. D. Fish told the Board that he expects to have a second written quote on the old plow truck shortly. He has bought a lot of road patching material with the potholes funding.

Phil Clark joined the discussion of Town roads. J. Huebner asked about the status of Old Middlefield Road. He told P. Clark that we had a complaint last week about the collapsing culverts there. D. Fish said that he laid down gravel over the area and widened the road at that spot. This is a temporary fix, but the road is passable now. Emergency vehicles can get through and the resident is satisfied. J. Huebner asked him about the road maintenance plan. D. Fish gave him a draft of what he and Phil Clark are working on. J. Huebner asked to have the types of projects sorted out by routine maintenance vs. project basis. We need prioritization of the major projects. J. Huebner would like to get the maintenance plan finished for next week. Regarding Cross Place Road, we need to determine how to build up the level of the road surface so that fire trucks can get across the bridge and up the road. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to discuss this with the new Becket Fire Chief.

J. Huebner reported that Chapter money is being released earlier this year. About 2/3 of the funding has been released now. The entire Chapter 90 budget is about \$300,000,000, but they are only releasing \$200,000,000 at present. P. Clark said that we still need the design information for the permanent bridge on Cross Place Road. DOT is asking for it. He also mentioned that FEMA has not approved the money yet for Eden Glen. He will write a letter to MEMA for J. Huebner to sign. MEMA has recommended our Eden Glen project to FEMA. The Town could be responsible for funding 25% of the project. J. Huebner asked about the situation at Depot Brook and Rt. 8. P. Clark said that the Conservation Commission will issue an enforcement letter. Because we can't establish the course of the brook before the clear cut, we can only issue a cease and

desist order. The Select Board can act to back up the enforcement of the cease and desist order. The DEP number the owner had posted was an old number. P. Clark said that he has been talking with the state about this case. Having served on the Conservation Committee, this land owner should know better than to disregard the regulations that protect our environment in order to pursue personal gain. He can't do what he wants at other people's expense. All we can do at this point is to stabilize and mitigate the situation. J. Huebner said that next week we will consider what capital projects we need to do and how we will manage them financially. Becket budgeted on spending so much on roads each year. We might take this approach. It would be the Town's version of the TIP plan.

9. G. Grogan told the Board that our insurer, MIIA, said that only the highway crew has liability insurance coverage. J. Huebner said that there is a separate policy for police, constables and Paul Mikaniewicz, Fire Chief .G. Grogan confirmed that we are going bi-weekly for payroll starting next month. G. Grogan also mentioned that he is looking for a \$ 150.00 check from Bill Allen Septic.
- 10.J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the status of the appointments. It is important to get the appointments sorted out from the elected officials on the spreadsheet. She is working on this at present based on our most recent Annual Town Meeting. Dave Weissbrod is to be on the Historical Commission. J. Huebner recommended she see Allison to double check the listings and make sure the terms are correct. This must be finalized before the end of the month. All employee evaluations must be in to the Board before the end of the fiscal year.
- 11.Chief Breen reported that he did have his department audit last week with a representative of the state. This official pronounced the Chief's office as the smallest police office in the state. The audit went well. The Chief mentioned that Lane Construction stopped work on WMR this week to go work on another job a long distance away. They said they'd be back. They haven't done anything in Dalton yet. In some spots the asphalt is 6-8" deep. J. Huebner said that we have to keep the pressure on DOT to get the full reconstruction planned and completed by the 2018 timeline.

12.D. We probably will not need to sign up with Vadar for one year. We should have the CSC software to work with and test by around July 1. He has a \$3000 budget established for the project. He has payment to Horizon Consulting scheduled for 1 - 2 weeks out.

13. The following year end transfers were approved by the Board: \$5,000 from Town Building Repairs to Building/Town Property Maintenance; \$2300 from Road Sealing to Tree Work; \$1250 from Veterans' Service Expense to Veterans' Benefits; \$257 from Berkshire Public Health Alliance to Public Health Nurse; \$45 from Sons and Daughters to COA Expense; \$3500 from Vocational Education to Chapter 32B Medical.

14. J. Huebner briefly mentioned the following items:

- a. Notice that we are at low risk for West Nile Disease
- b. Notice that our risk for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is also low
- c. Educational material that he received at the recent BCBOHA dinner about Tick-borne disease to be posted
- d. Special Town Meeting will be held on June 30 at 7:30.
- e. Receipt of 2013 Annual Report from Westfield Wild & Scenic
- f. On the newly paved Washington Mt. Road we need to institute speed control
- g. Thursday, June 26 is the date for the defibrillator training at Town Hall
- h. The Bucksteep buyer's representative has not appeared before the Board yet.
- i. Did we receive a letter from WMECO about a pole setting meeting?

15. At 8:31 M. Case joined the meeting. He told the Board that 2 local residents graduated from Waconnah yesterday. The state will refund some charges on the school budget. This will reduce next year's school bill. He heard that Chief Breen is using people from Middlefield to manage traffic on WMR during the paving and believed that we should be giving Town residents that work.

16. D. Parnell mentioned that the Crocker Contract phone and internet cost will come out of Town Building Maintenance. \$2500 for the Crocker work

will carry over into 2015, similar to accounts like the \$7000 for the Eden Glen dam.

17.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:55. S. Lennon seconded and vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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

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

Minutes written by J. nelson