

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - June 23, 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 June 16, 2014. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. Ken Walls asked the Board if CSX had responded to his complaint that the beaver deceiver on Upper Valley Road needed to be cleared out. Debris had built up and the water level was rising. J. Huebner told him that he had conveyed that information to his contact at CSX. The CSX representative had personally checked it and told J. Huebner that the problem had been dealt with.
4. M. Case reported that as of this afternoon Washington Mountain Road (WMR) had been completely repaved right down to the bottom of the slope into Dalton.
5. D. Fish told the Board that he had received a message that there had been damage at the Chapel. Some roof tiles and a drainage pipe need to be fixed. When he arrived to inspect the damage he noticed that the flag was missing. J. Huebner asked him to report this to Ed Bond. D. Fish told the Board that he doesn't have another written truck quote yet. He will keep trying to get one. He mentioned that there might be some issues with a few of the curb cuts he did last week. P. Clark is looking into this. He is concerned about water run-off. D. Fish said that he has left the paperwork for P. Clark to sign. He told the Board that he has used up most of the pot hole money. He paved the apron of Schultz road where it joins WMR, hoping it will make plowing and winter access generally easier this winter.
6. J. Huebner reported receiving a note from the Parks Commission regarding the highway department's mowing of the grass at the Park. He read the note into the record. The Commission asked that the highway department take care not to blow grass clippings on to the basketball court or the

walking paths. The commission mentioned that a wedding will take place in the Park on June 28 and requested that regular lawn maintenance be done before that time. J. Huebner asked if there was a way we could keep weeds off the paths. D. Fish said that White Wolf tills the paths on park cleanup day to keep the weeds down. He also mentioned that the Johnson Hill Road beaver deceiver is active. Residents are feeding the beavers. There has been some flooding of the road. He cleaned out the deceiver. He has the paperwork ready to be signed for the new plow truck. He wants to be sure to get all paperwork in place before we have to pay for the truck.

7. J. Huebner said that he has responded in detail by email to the complaints of Ms. M. Deane regarding plow damage to her mother's property, Town cleanup of that property and lack of an Annual Report. He stated unequivocally that the Board understands her concern for her mother and takes seriously its responsibility to all our residents and is especially mindful of its responsibility to our vulnerable seniors. That email has been entered into the record and is attached to these minutes.
8. J. Huebner showed the Board and attendees a picture that Jan Huebner had taken of the Old Town Hall for publication by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). The Commission has asked all towns in the county to submit pictures of a landmark or landscape which captures the character of the town. Discussion at last week's meeting settled on the Old Town Hall as the best landmark to use. BRPC will use these pictures in an upcoming promotional/informational publication.
9. The Board opened discussion of plans for the unveiling of the signage and designation of Washington Mountain Road as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Scenic Byway". The ceremony will take place at the Old Town Hall on Saturday, July 19 at 11:00am. Sen. Ben Downing and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli have already committed to attend. We are also inviting the following: Governor Deval Patrick; DOT officials DePaola, Niles, Stevens, and Davey; Lieutenant Blackmer, Station Commander of the Cheshire Barracks of the State Police; Sheriff Bowler; Dalton and Becket Select Board Chairs and Dist. 1 Rep. Paul Mark. M. Case said that he had arranged for the Vietnam Veterans of Berkshire County to provide a color guard. The Here at Home Committee and the American Legion Riders out of Dalton will

participate. D. Fish agreed that he would get the two signs installed on WMR by July 18th. At the ceremony we will actually unveil a reproduction of one of the signs.

M. Case, the originator of the idea to establish the scenic byway, agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. There was discussion of using the Old Town Hall, especially in inclement weather. Carol Kennedy of the Sons and Daughters and E. Bond will be contacted about this. The need for some light refreshments was discussed. The Board agreed that Heather Anello of the Becket General should be contacted about providing it. J. Hostetter offered to contact her. We will also need Porta - Potties at the site. White Wolf will be contacted for this. J. Huebner will send an email message to all invitees. We will need good security. S. Lennon will handle this. D. Fish asked exactly where to put the signs. It was agreed that they should go where the "Road Needs Repairs" signs are now. We also need to do a press release to the media about the dedication. Suggestions were to let Jenn Smith of the Eagle know and also the Country Journal and local TV channels. The Board speculated that we may attract 50 -60 people in this manner. If Governor Patrick attends the crowd could be much larger. J. Huebner agreed to contact the media.

10.J. Huebner observed that the Pipeline Safety Bill passed today. There is no additional word about the proposed new pipeline. As proposed, only a small piece of Washington might be affected.

11. He also mentioned that Dr. Cameron's retirement party was a well-attended and suitably lively event. There were wonderful speeches and music.

12. The Board signed permits for Summit Hill Campground to hold a car show on July 26 (\$50) and for White Wolf to do excavation work (\$50).

13.J. Huebner asked the Board to sign a letter he wrote to Lieutenant Blackmer of the State Police requesting additional patrols on WMR as the new surface is sure to invite speeding. He also asked the State Police to make periodic weight checks of large trucks to deter excessive deterioration of the road. He mentioned in the letter that he had directed D. Fish to work

with the police to create a suitable space for weigh-ins along the road. All Board members signed the letter.

14. J.Huebner briefed Chief Breen on the plans for the dedication ceremony. He informed him that S. Lennon would be in charge of security and asked the Chief to assist him as needed. Chief Breen submitted his performance review to the Board. During the review the Board asked him to focus on being an administrative chief. They expressed their appreciation for his looking in on seniors. This is the kind of Community Policing the Board wants to see him doing. They don't want him doing road stops. They don't want him taking that risk. He said that his practice is to call in the state police on any enforcement or investigative situations. S. Lennon said that he believes the Town should have an active police force and that the salary we're paying is too high for an administrative chief.

J. Huebner said that he wants to appoint Chief Breen on an annual, not a three year basis. Chief Breen said that he is not planning to retire this year. As he only works part-time, the state's retirement rule does not apply. J. Huebner made a motion to appoint him for one year. M. Case seconded the motion. S. Lennon did not support the appointment, but the motion passed with the votes of J. Huebner and M. Case. Following the review, J. Huebner said that we need to define what we want to have for a future police department. We will have to discuss salary going forward, but it will remain the same for now.

- 15.J. Huebner stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meets tomorrow and he will attend.
16. He reported receiving a second request from WMECO for the results of our hearing on the installation of underground cable on Beach Road. Even though WMECO considered it a second request, it was the first notice the Town had received. The Board concluded that we do indeed need to schedule a hearing on this matter. Notice will have to be posted. Eyal Shapira and the Wileys should attend as they are the parties involved. We have to clarify if this portion of the road is our right of way or if it is a private road now. The Board will take up this issue again at the next meeting.

17. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to check the revised appointments list for the terms of appointment and to make corrections where necessary.
18. Huebner reported that the Board had received notice from the state Department of Environmental Protection that they were delaying the effective date for implementation of the transfer station certification and third party inspection requirements to early January 2015.
19. K. Avalle gave the Board her performance review form.
20. The Board received an MMA bulletin urging members to oppose telecom industry proposals to remove local authority in siting of wireless antennas and equipment. J. Huebner will review this and determine what impact it might have on the Town.
21. D. Parnell told the Board that he had a conversation with Rebecca Krause-Hardie of Community Software Consulting (CSC) today about the CIC grant. They will be at Town Hall installing software for the remote backups on the accountant's computer later this month or in early July. They were also interested in installing the software on the Garage computer, but the Board decided to defer a decision on that. CSC is testing the financial software now. It is stored in the cloud.
22. The Board signed documents to process the Chapter 90 funds. We expect to have the money in July. D. Fish said that if all goes as planned we can have the new truck ready by fall. He may not have enough after that to do the complete re-paving of Blotz Road, but wants to do the majority of the road at least.
23. G. Grogan told the Board that the Town has earned additional MIIA credits and asked how the Board wanted to apply them. The Board told him to retain the credits and have them applied to our future bill. He presented his review to the Board.
24. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the monthly Selectmen's letter. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

25. The Board reviewed K. Avalor and G. Viner of the Assessor's Office. The reviews were strongly positive for both. J. Huebner made a motion to reappoint K. Avalor as Assessor Consultant for another year. He stated that she is a consummate professional and the Town is lucky to have her services. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

26. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson