

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – August 11, 2014

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 from July 28, 2014. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. K. Walls told the Board that Upper Valley Road was flooded again. The Beaver Deceivers are blocked up 18" high with mud. J. Huebner said that he will call CSX and ask them to clean out the Deceivers. They have been responsive in the past. K. Walls reported that he had visited the state yard to ask what they plan to do on Route 8 at the entrance to the Town Park to control future flooding from Depot Brook. He suggested that they need to clean debris out of that culvert. They were aware of the problem.
4. Chief Breen reported that there has been a number of break - ins in town recently. There was one reported to him on the Skyline Drive. Another break- in was reported to him at Bob Healy's home close to Town Hall. He investigated and that turned out to be a rumor. He said that the state police investigated a break- in at Craig Willis's house. He mentioned that a jewelry box had been found on Route 8, but he had been unable to trace it. Hinsdale police have the jewelry box. Dora Filanowska said she had a jewelry box stolen a couple of years ago and would inquire. She and her husband were very concerned about the rash of robberies in town. K. Walls asked how often the state police patrol here.
5. J. Huebner reported that he had contacted the state police about getting weight checks done on large trucks which use Washington Mountain Road. He learned that there are 3 officers in the area who do weight stops. They

carry a portable scale. He was told that they would look into the situation on Washington Mountain Road.

6. Frank Kennedy told the Board that someone from Pugzees Farm had spray painted half mile markers on Washington Mountain Road. This is the second year they have done this in conjunction with a foot race they hold. Chief Breen said that he had received a complaint about this and investigated. The spray painting starts at Pugzee's driveway. The markers are each about a foot square. J. Huebner said that they cannot deface the Town's road in this manner. He asked D. Fish to cover the markings with black paint. He agreed to do so. M. Case suggested that Pugzee's Farm be told to use chalk in the future. Chief Breen to talk to Mr. Shapira.
7. A resident of Washington Mountain Road told the Board that she had recently seen 2 strangers walking in the rear of her property toward D. Grillon's house. She thought that was suspicious. They were women. She noticed that there was a small red car and driver parked in front of her house. As she approached the car the women moved toward it. They told her that they were just checking on the wetlands back there. They showed her ID in the form of some paperwork from New Hampshire and said that they were inspectors. The resident reported the incident to Chief Breen who called the EPA and inquired if they had inspectors in the area. They did not.
8. Several residents complained about jet planes flying low over the town and also of numerous helicopters. M. Case said that these were training flights by US military. The helicopters often fly to the Four Corners and practice different maneuvers such as hovering and lifting large loads.
9. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to keep track of all overtime he and his crew spend working on storm damage. He replied that he has been doing this. Dick Spencer needs to be informed. FEMA may reimburse the Town for a percentage of this expense, but we cannot pay the overtime until details

are worked out with FEMA . J. Huebner asked if Frost Road can handle another flood if it happens on Wednesday. D. Fish told him that he had removed the flood-wrinkled pavement there. J. Huebner asked if he can repair the pavement just before the transfer station/Town garage. He can't use Chapter money for that as it is not a Town road. He is patching it for now and will do more work. He is ready to put rip-rap around the culverts in the Town Park. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson if she had found any information about grants for dam removal in case that becomes a strategy for remediating Eden Glen. She reported having found some information on the DEP web site and will research further.

10. Abe Guthrie addressed the Board reminding them that the Hilltown Hoot is scheduled this year on September 7. He asked how to secure the required permits. The Board referred him to J. Hostetter and suggested he return on August 25 to take care of the permits. A. Guthrie mentioned that the CBRSD teachers will be playing again along with numerous other bands. He told the Board that the Guthrie family has contracted with AXIA to wire the "last mile" from the MBI fiber running along Route 8 to their home on Beach Road. This is a private installation for the use of the family. J. Huebner advised that he consult with Peter Niles at DOT about burying lines or tunneling under Route 8 as it is a state road. A public hearing may be necessary if the lines cross over into Hinsdale. The cost of the installation will be about \$20,000.

11. J. Huebner briefly commented on the following:

- a. The Board received \$433.84 from Waste Management as a rebate from our recycling program.
- b. The Washington Cultural Council plans to add Mark Johns to their members.
- c. The Board received a Department of Public Health memo on bats and rabies.
- d. Next month there will be an economic development conference in Chicopee. He will try to attend.

- e. There will be a legislative breakfast on October 10 in Sandisfield.
- f. Nick Taylor has expressed interest in opening a package store in Washington. After brief discussion the Board decided that it did not fit with the Town's character nor is it consistent with our by-laws barring retail businesses.
- g. J. Hostetter submitted an activity report on her work scanning Town records. She will be out of work this week with an injury.
- h. J. Huebner and P. Clark have been working on an RFP for Cross Place Road and Lower Sargent bridges.
- i. J. Huebner has reviewed the data from the business census and will work on analyzing it for discussion next week.
- j. He has been elected south east representative to the MPO. Jean Pryor from Becket is the alternate. This leaves us well positioned to push for the eventual re-construction of Washington Mountain Road.
- k. The Board received notices of special permit hearings from Pittsfield and a Planning Board notice from Dalton about a permit renewal. To be posted.
- l. J. Huebner gave D. Fish a letter from HEW about fatalities at work.
- m. The Board received communication from the state BOH regarding current public water systems in Town. J. Nelson to contact state with corrections.
- n. The Board received a letter from the Becket Federated Church inquiring about our interest in listing again in their calendar for \$46.00. The Board declined.
- o. MIIA sent a memo on their managed care program. J. Nelson to correct addressee's name from Dick Grillon to J. Huebner.
- p. The Board received a passing Title 5 report on a property on East Washington Road.
- q. The Board received a mailing from Constellation Energy detailing their rates and asked J. Nelson to compare these with our WMECO rates.

12. J. Huebner reported that we will host a meeting with the pipeline company Kinder Morgan at Town Hall at 7:00 pm this Thursday, Aug. 14. We will discuss their plans for building and maintaining the pipeline as it pertains to Washington and neighboring towns.
13. The Peltiers have responded to the notice from the Conservation Commission regarding the logging at Route 8/ Depot Brook and are complying.
14. J. Huebner made a motion to sign the contract with Vadar for accounting software for another year. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. J. Huebner authorized payment for our share of the CBRSD budget and announced that there will be a capital assets meeting next week.
15. J. Huebner reported that he had received an angry phone call last week complaining that social events were being held illegally at Bucksteep. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to contact Richard Loveszy, the new owner of Bucksteep, to be sure he understood there are to be no weddings or other events until all permits and licenses are in place. Mr. Loveszy was present at the Selectmen's meeting and told the Board that he was very aware of all the legal requirements for operation and that no events had been held at the property nor would they be until all requirements had been met. He knew rumors had been circulating, but they were not true. The water was being tested and he was told that the boil water notice would be removed by the weekend. J. Huebner asked if he had been in touch with our health agent Scott Kraznik. He said that he had and that he understood that all inspections had to be done because the property had changed hands. The Town needs copies of the inspection reports. Richard Vinette is working on the liquor license.

J. Huebner said that Family Unity's plans for Bucksteep still constitute a non-conforming use and that he must meet with the Planning Board for

approval. He is unsure how the passing of title affects that status. Mr. Loveszy said that he had been in touch with Marilyn Wiley. He also contacted Karen Avalle about his tax status. K. Avalle told the Board that she had reviewed his documentation and that it was in order. Family Unity is a certified non-profit enterprise with valid 501C-3 standing. She has given that information to the state. He has no property tax obligation. Mr. Loveszy told the Board that he would voluntarily contribute to the Town to the extent he could. J. Huebner said that there are legal questions around this issue. The Town cannot have a formal agreement, but seemingly can accept donations.

16. Chief Breen reminded the Board that he had applied for and received a grant for a trailer to be used for Town emergency equipment transport. He will apply for a related grant soon and asked the Board if he should seek emergency supplies or road signs. The Board recommended he seek emergency supplies to be stored at Town Hall.

17.M. Case thanked all residents who have shown up at the Selectmen’s meetings these past weeks and hoped even more people would show interest in the Town’s business and attend.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:25. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson