

Town of Washington Selectmen's Meeting – August 18, 2014

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from July 28, 2014. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. The Selectmen did not meet on August 4.
3. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for an update on highway department activities. He told the Board that there is a lot of beaver activity in Town at present. He will be building a new beaver deceiver for Upper Valley Road and cleaning out the deceiver on Cross Place Road. J. Huebner told him that he had left a message for CSX about water on Upper Valley Road , but had not had a reply yet. K. Walls told the Board that the water on Upper Valley has gone down. J. Huebner will update CSX on this. D. Fish mentioned that he had also made a berm on Bob Koffler's property on Frost Road to try to minimize further flood washouts. He also mentioned that a resident of Washington Mountain Road reported flooding in the drainage way bordering her property and that he will clear this.
4. J. Huebner reported that we have a Request for Quotations (RFQ) written and ready to go on engineering/design work for culverts located at Cross Place Road, Lower Valley Road and Lower Sargent Road. Though we may think of these sites as bridges, because the spans are less than 20 feet wide, they are classified as culverts. J. Huebner made a motion that we issue the RFQ. S. Lennon seconded that motion and the vote to issue was unanimous.
5. Regarding the logging on Route 8 at Depot Brook, J. Huebner said that there was now another party involved and questions had arisen about valid

building lots, in addition to the Conservation Commission's concerns about the impact on the brook of the logging and road building work done. K. Walls added that Mr. Peltier had retained a scientist to assess the logged area. There will be a meeting at the site on Thursday at 7:00 am. Marilyn Wiley told the Board that she does not believe there are any building lots there.

6. J. Huebner asked that a map of Washington showing the current route of the Kinder Morgan pipeline be posted at Town Hall. This map was among the materials distributed by the representatives from Kinder Morgan at last Thursday's meeting to discuss residents' concerns regarding the natural gas pipeline. J. Huebner will ask to have a copy of the presentation materials posted on the Town web site when he receives it.
7. Carol Kennedy announced to the Board that Barbara Keyes has volunteered to be our new Ballot Box Constable. J. Huebner made a motion to appoint Barbara Keyes to the position of Ballot Box Constable. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to appoint was unanimous. The Board thanked Carol and Barbara.
8. J. Nelson read a memo from Building Maintenance Coordinator Ed Bond stating that the front door and the ramp door to the Town Hall will be repaired or replaced later this week by the original contractor. The doors are still under warranty.
9. J. Huebner reported receiving an invoice for \$10,000 from the Town of Becket for fire protection. He spoke to Ed Gibson, Becket Town Manager, and asked him to call D. Fish about the question of the large truck being unable to cross the Bailey bridge on Cross Place Road. Ed Gibson called Dave and voiced doubts about the bridge's ability to support the large truck. D. Fish disputed this as the bridge was designed to hold military tanks. He voiced his opinion to the Board that the Becket Fire Department just doesn't want to be bothered with our residents' concerns and won't

make the effort to answer our questions about fire protection. They ignored D. Fish's request that they come down and inspect the gravel ramp he had built to ease the truck across the bridge. We also received a \$1000 invoice for use of the Becket Beach.

10. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from Robert Putnam, the new CBRSD Superintendent, informing us that Washington will have one Voc Ed student to transport this school year. The student is Tyler Lampro and he will be attending McCann Tech. Chief Breen added that at present he knows that he will be transporting 2 students in all. There will also be one from Becket. He had confirmation of this from Ed Gibson, the Becket Town Administrator. Chief Breen said that we may possibly have a second student from Washington, but we must wait for CBRSD's decision on that case. That potential transportation client wants to attend Taconic.
11. Chief Breen informed the Board that the solar- powered electronic speed limit warning sign was vandalized on Washington Mountain Road on Saturday night. The tires were slashed and some additional damage was done. He will tow it to Becket for repairs. Washington will have to pay for the repairs. State police are investigating the vandalism. J. Huebner suggested we put a spy camera on the speed warning sign. Chief Breen mentioned that he had twice gone to Pugzees Farm to discuss the spray painting on Washington Mountain Road with Mr. Shapira. However he was not at home. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson to draft a letter to Mr. Shapira making it clear that he is not to make any further markings on the road. He is to use stakes or banners as markers on the shoulder in the future.
12. J. Huebner reported receiving 2 letters from Richard Loveszy, the new owner of Bucksteep, providing an update on activity there. The water has now tested free of e coli and they are petitioning MASS DEP for withdrawal of the "Boil Water" notice. They are now flushing all the lines with chlorine. He has made appointments for the required inspections. Additionally, he has mailed in his tax status data. J. Huebner asked Marilyn Wiley, Planning

Board Chair, if Mr. Loveszy had contacted her yet. He told her that the Planning Board needs to rule on whether Bucksteep's non-conforming use status transferred with the property when it sold. M. Wiley told him that Mr. Loveszy had not contacted her.

13. J. Huebner also reported receiving a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Matson of Lovers Lane. They reported continuing damage from storm runoff on their driveway. They believe that it has become impassable due to grading and runoff from the road. They report that the culvert in the middle of the road is collapsing. Trees along the road are dying as storm runoff washes away the soil at their bases. They hope that the PASER survey to be done by BRPC, on town road conditions, will take note of this. D. Fish said that he is aware of the situation, but he can't touch that culvert without going through multiple levels of study and approvals. Most culverts in town fall into this category and are the cause of much frustration to him and to residents. J. Huebner will contact Phil Clark about whether culverts with intermittent flow need Conservation Commission approval for replacement and will follow up with the Matsons.

14. John Les told the Board that he will be able to give remote computer system access to all Town Hall employees when the new phone/internet installation has been completed. The administrative assistants will make a list for John of all who are interested in remote access.

15. J. Huebner commented briefly on the following:

- a. Notice of a public hearing on a special permit received from the Lee Planning Board. Posted
- b. Notice of a public hearing from the City of Pittsfield concerning an auto service station and inflammable fluids. Posted
- c. Notice of a public hearing from the Town of Dalton on a special permit at 33 Florence Street. Posted

- d. Notice of a free rigid plastic re-cycling collection in Otis on August 23. Plastic lawn chairs, playhouses, trash barrels, truck bed liners etc. Posted
- e. J. Nelson to follow up with Scott Krzanik on Town recreational camping form to file with state and on list of public water systems.
- f. S. Lennon to follow up with state on electronic death registry.
- g. Board received copies of the Mass. Municipal Association Directory.

16. J. Huebner suspended the Selectmen's meeting at 7:47 pm. and opened the Joint Meeting on Capital Assets.

17. J. Huebner re-convened the Selectmen's meeting at 8:25 and made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28. S. Lennon seconded that motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson