

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – August 25, 2014

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and S. Lennon.
2. After he led the assembly in the pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 18, 2014. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Abe Guthrie appeared before the Board to complete the paperwork for the Hilltown Hoot which is to take place in the Town Park on September 7 from noon to 7:00pm. A. Guthrie signed the applications for the event. The Board then signed the requisite permits prepared by J. Hostetter. File copies were made of the permits. One additional permit was prepared for Ozzie's food truck. Signatures and \$50.00 fee to be collected by the Administrative Assistants.
4. M. Case reported that our new school superintendent, Dr. Putnam, is already working hard at the job, having taken no time off since assuming office. The Board will invite him to a meeting in the next few weeks. M. Case also mentioned that former Superintendent, Dr. Cameron has been very ill and had to cancel his retirement travel plans.
5. J. Huebner made a motion that the Board approve the Monthly Selectmen's Letter for the Tracks. M. Case seconded. The vote to approve the letter was unanimous.
6. J. Huebner made a motion to approve a request from the Becket Washington PTO to borrow the Town's portable generator for use at the Hilltown Hoot. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous. The Board asked D. Fish to deliver the generator to the PTO at

the Town Park on September 7 before noon. He is to check with E. Bond about this.

7. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for an update on the status of the road condition on Lovers Lane and Lower Valley. D. Fish told the Board that he had received permission to proceed with replacing the collapsed culvert pipes there and elsewhere where there is only an intermittent flow of water passing through the pipe. He went to the Matson's on Lovers Lane and improved the condition of their driveway per the Board's request. J. Huebner thanked him for that. He added that D. Fish had done a fine job repairing the culvert pipe which crossed the road just before the transfer station.
  
8. Belinda Phillips asked the Board if the Town could install a larger culvert pipe at the former Maplevue property which abuts hers. D. Fish observed that we have donated pipe to private citizens in the past. B. Phillips mentioned that water backs up into her field. The prior board started the work on this repair and did not complete it. The Board agreed to complete the job. We will replace the existing pipe with a larger diameter pipe. J. Huebner said that this is in the best interests of the town as the water backs up onto the road. J. Huebner asked about other culvert projects. Phil Clark confirmed that we can replace any intermittent culvert. There are several others on Lovers Lane and elsewhere.
  
9. J. Huebner reported that he had spoken with the Becket Town Manager about getting the Fire Department to test whether the large truck would clear the bridge on Cross Place Road. He has not yet received an answer to that question. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to estimate the cost of paving the Park driveway. It would have to come out of the Town's budget, not Chapter funds. D. Fish reported that Hinsdale has appointed a new highway superintendent. He has asked for the drag box back. D. Fish reported no developments at Eden Glen. Mr. Koffler, a resident of Eden Glen, told the Board that there is still a lot of work to be done there. He

estimated that it is only 20% repaired. We still have to replace the culvert and repair the road.

10. The Board said that we have to pay the highway crew for their overtime on storm damage repair. If they work overtime they should get paid at the overtime rate. That rate is time and a half. D. Spencer said that we should take this out of the salary budget or the summer work budget. We may have to shuffle the summer budgets around to cover this cost. Cathy Stevens asked the Town to send her a report on all we have been spending on the last storm. FEMA will only pay overtime. D. Fish said that they are very meticulous about their recordkeeping. All paperwork must be accurate and complete. K. Walls asked when we will see some progress on the Eden Glen culvert. Phil Clark told the Board that we are still waiting on FEMA. Regarding Pittsfield's repairs to Ashley Reservoir Dam, J. Huebner said that they must pay for repairs to the road that they are using to access the site. M. Case suggested that we not charge Pittsfield for the work on the road in exchange for those five acres of cemetery land we want. D. Fish mentioned that they may need to build bridges to get to the dam.
- 11.J. Huebner reported that the water on Upper Valley Road has drained. CSX took care of it and notified him.
- 12.J. Huebner emailed Lt. Blackmer at the Cheshire State Police barracks and asked for more patrols of the Town in light of the recent series of break-ins. Chief Breen said that the police have a suspect in the trouble at Craig Willis's property. He added that a pellet stove had been reported stolen out of the ruins of the house which burned down on Rt. 8. The Chief will paint over the markings at the edge of the pavement on Washington Mountain Road with flat black.
13. S. Conners told the Board that he asked K. Avelle to do research on non-profits making Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT payments) to municipalities through her resources at DOR. J. Huebner said that it is

unusual for a non-profit organization to have an integrated for-profit under its corporate umbrella. Mass DOR will investigate if they are uncertain about the legality of this arrangement. He wondered if Family Unity is obligated to honor the prior agreements for weddings. Building Inspector P. Greene told him that only ADA compliance is missing from the Bucksteep buildings. They still need kitchen and septic inspections.

- 14.K. Walls provided an update on the situation at Depot Brook and Route 8. The scientist whom R. Peltier hired to investigate the impact of his logging and new road on the brook has given him a list of required restorations to complete. J. Hueber asked about the potential building lots involved. The Planning Board said that nothing had been filed with them. R. Peltier will have to have a Form A on file before any property can change hands.
- 15.J. Huebner asked the administrative assistants to post the Kinder Morgan presentation on the Town web site.
- 16.J. Huebner signed the DOT Winter Rapid Road Repair document so that we can collect reimbursement for paving.
- 17.Dan Parnell told the Board that there is no news on the CIC grant to develop municipal accounting software.
- 18.Chief Breen told the Board that the potential third student requesting Voc Ed transportation wants to go to Taconic High School. However the other two students need to travel north to school, not south and west where Taconic is located. This potential voc ed student has already transferred to and from several schools and he is uncertain what the family's plans are. M. Case advised him to call Diane Koch at CBRSD for more information. The mother told him that she has received approval and that she will get her daughter there somehow. The student's official residence is her home in Washington, but there is reason to believe that she may be staying in a Pittsfield group home. If this is true then her transportation would be

Pittsfield's responsibility. Chief Breen will investigate. D. Spencer said that the April 1 deadline for choosing schools is long past and that we can refuse tuition for this student.

19. J. Huebner briefly discussed the following items and issues:

- a. There will be a BCBOHA training on September 15 for Board of Health members.
- b. On September 30 there will be a meeting on Resources for Economic Development in Chicopee. He will try to attend.
- c. The Fall legislative breakfast will be in Sandisfield on October 10. He will register.
- d. Received Family Hurricane Preparedness information from MEMA. To Post.
- e. The annual MMPA meeting will be in Worcester at Holy Cross on September 11.
- f. The MMA Selectmen's Regional Meeting will be held in Boston on September 18 from 11:30 – 1:00.
- g. In Springfield on October 3 there will be a seminar on preparing for various climate change effects for local health officials.
- h. Received a letter from the Baystate Roads Program at UMASS certifying that Dave Fish successfully completed all of the requirements for the Baystate Roads Scholar Program. He attended seven training workshops each of which required six hours participation and are challenging and often very technical. The Program Manager praised Dave's professionalism and his dedication to improving operations in Washington. The Board was very pleased with his accomplishment and will place this letter in his personnel file. This news will go into the next Tracks.
- i. Selectman Shaun Lennon took out an application to become a dealer in used cars for private individuals. No "car lot" will be involved. He will bid on cars for other people.

- j. The Board received a call inquiring about the permits issued to Bucksteep and when they were issued.
- k. Received information from the state on the Mass Electric Vehicle Program for municipalities.
- l. Received information from the state on the computerized death records program. To be forwarded to the Town Clerk.
- m. There will be no meeting next Monday due to the Labor Day holiday.
- n. The Board will hold off paying for the new phone system until it is fully installed and operational.
- o. The administrative assistants are to update the appointments to include the new member of the Cultural Council, Barbara Keyes.
- p. J.Hostetter completed training as a temporary food events inspector.

20.J. Huebner announced that the Board would go into executive session and made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen’s Meeting at 8:23 pm. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous. The Board then went into Executive Session on a personnel matter with J. Hostetter.

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

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

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

Minutes written by J. Nelson