

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – September 22, 2014

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order 7:03 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 September 15, 2014. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. D. Fish asked the Board for their signatures on documents from MassDOT authorizing the state to release \$34,026.00 in Chapter funds to reimburse the Town for money spent on clean-up after the July rain storm. The Board was happy to sign the documents which D. Fish then took to the Town Clerk to be notarized. D. Fish will be the signatory for this transaction. D. Fish said that he will use the drag box on Frost Road to repave the area damaged by the July storm flooding. He did get one quote for this work and it was over \$16,000.
4. J. Huebner reported receiving a 2014 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies survey form from the University of Chicago. The census is sponsored by the Department of Justice. He passed this along to Chief Breen.
5. An invitation to attend the Hampshire County Selectmen's Dinner at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton on October 2 was received by the Board. No one is available to attend.
6. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Historical Commission which provides details on the FY 2015 Survey and Planning Grant Cycle. Deadline for grant applications is November 17, 2014. He passed the letter to J. Nelson, member of the Town Historical Commission, to share with the group for consideration.

7. J. Huebner asked that information from the UMASS Extension Citizen Planner Training Collaborative be given to our Planning Board. Fall workshops on many aspects of community planning relevant to the work of the Town's Planning Board are scheduled.
8. The Board reported receiving checks in the amounts of \$125 and \$50 from Roof Diagnostics Solar for building and electrical inspection fees for the installation of residential solar panels on the roof at 528 N. Washington State Road. The Board also received two checks for fees for \$150 each from White Wolf for septic repairs at 508 S. Washington State Road and for septic repairs at 204 Johnson Hill Road.
9. J. Huebner raised the subject of overtime work by the road crew. D. Fish reported that the crew is maxed out at present. There is simply more work between maintenance and on-going emergency clean up than they can cover. The Board advised D. Fish to look into hiring some temporary help to fill the immediate need. D. Spencer said that we should plan for this possibly coming up again in next year's budget. The Board suggested that we should put a pre-authorization requirement on this process to protect against abuse of overtime. J. Huebner asked Glenn Grogan to research the regulations regarding short-term hiring so that the Town won't be liable for paying unemployment when the jobs end. The suggestion was made that we also look into hiring a local landscaping company to do all of the mowing work, including the roadside mowing. The Board asked D. Fish to try to find a small local contractor to do this work.
10. J. Huebner told Chief Breen that after the recent dog bite incident at the Hoot, the Board wants to ban dogs from Town events. The Chief told the Board that the dog that bit the child at the Hoot has been cleared of any suspicion of rabies and has been released from quarantine. The young boy is also fine. Going forward, the Board also decided to post "Curb your Dog" notices at the Town Park and to set up a plastic bag dispenser and waste receptacle so that residents walking their dogs can easily clean up after

them. Chief Breen supported these policies but asked the Board to hold off notifying the public until we can get the signage and equipment in place at the Park.

11. Chief Breen told the Board that he visited Bucksteep last week and had a conversation with the owner, Richard Loveszy, as they had requested. He warned Mr. Loveszy that it is still illegal for him to hold any events at the property as he lacked several required permits. Mr. Loveszy assured him that he understood completely, that no events were planned and that nothing was happening there that weekend as had been rumored. Chief Breen checked-in both days and confirmed that no events happened. Mr. Loveszy told him that his goal for the future is to have autistic people of all ages there, both children and adults. He has a 5 year plan. Part of their therapy would be to plant and cultivate vegetables and sell them at a farm stand. He also mentioned that his foundation had some profit-making operations. He told Chief Breen that he wanted to use ATV's to transport guests to trails in October Mt. State Forest. Chief Breen told him that was illegal as he would have to travel more than 50' on the public road from his property. He also wants to build ATV trails on the Bucksteep property. J. Huebner said that abutters might not support that use of the land. R. Loveszy also said that he plans to put up a gate and fence. Staff will be in residence and stay in housing on the property.

12. G. Grogan and B. Phillips asked the Board to clarify the Town's policy on garnishing the wages of Town employees who owe back property taxes. The Board agreed that the law allows this if the individuals have been properly notified. They told the Board that on the same basis they will move against employees who owe excise taxes.

13. J. Huebner commented briefly on the following issues:

- a. Received a memorandum from the state Bureau of Environmental Health confirming that "casual lodging " which, like AIRbnb, is

booked over the internet, is still subject to local licensure or permitting just as a lodging house or Bed and Breakfast would be.

- b. A new map of the proposed route of the Kinder Morgan pipeline running from Pennsylvania to Dracut, Mass. is posted on the Town Hall bulletin board.
- c. Received from the Town of Lee a Notice of a public hearing on 10/27 at 6:15 pm for construction of a staircase for a second egress route at 19 Franklin Street.
- d. Received from the Town of Dalton: notice of a planning board meeting on a special permit on 10/15 at 7:00pm and of a Board of Appeals hearing on 10/14 at 7:00pm on a request to erect an oversized building.
- e. The Pumpkin Walk is scheduled for Friday 9/24 starting at 6:00. J. Huebner will give the information to Lisa for the Tracks.
- f. D. Fish said that he has not been able to meet with P. Clark on the Darcy drainage problem, but will do so. He needs to get a start on preparing the trucks for winter. He worked on drainage on the hill at Lovers Lane. He replaced 2 collapsing pipes on Lower Valley Road. He cleared out the beaver deceiver on Upper Valley. He will use some Chapter money on the Transfer Station driveway. No update on the new plow truck yet. Now that most of the PASER road evaluation study is completed, he will meet with BRPC.
- g. J. Huebner reported that the Becket Fire Department has finally tested its large truck over the Bailey Bridge on Cross Place Road. The grading on the bridge was satisfactory and the long wheel base made it over the arch smoothly.
- h. The deadline for bids on the Three Culvert Design project was extended to 9/29 to accommodate bidder questions.
- i. J. Hostetter has created a pipeline information page for the Town website. Check it out for up- to- date information.
- j. The National Park Service is getting involved in the Eden Glen project. There will be a meeting there at 10:00am on Oct. 1.

- k. Still no news from Pittsfield in response to J. Huebner request for information about the cemetery land.
- l. There will be a conference on Climate Change on October 3 at Springfield .
- m. BRPC Annual Dinner will be on Oct. 16 at Pittsfield Country Club.
- n. The Legislative Breakfast will be held in Sandisfield on Oct. 10. J. Huebner will attend.
- o. The Berkshire Regional Health Alliance will hold a free flu clinic for residents at Town Hall on Oct. 6 from 4:30 to 7:00.
- p. J. Nelson to research grant opportunities for removing “mid-stream Obstruction” from brook at Eden Glen.
- q. Rebecca Krause Hardie will provide an update on the CIC municipal software development project to the Board on Oct. 6.
- r. J. Hostetter expects to receive the final missing data for the 2010 annual report by the end of this week.
- s. The Planning Board will meet on Oct. 14. May have more by-law information.
- t. J. Huebner to review Administrative Assistants division of labor.
- u. J. Nelson to get list of VPN requests for J. Les.
- v. K. Walls reported that a bear died from a fall off his deck last week. He notified the Animal Officer. He mentioned the purported siting of a mountain lion in Town recently.

14.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson