

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – November 17, 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 Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of November 10, 2014. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. M. Case announced that he is no longer Chair of the CBRSD School committee. He has stepped down, but will continue to serve as Vice-Chair.
4. J. Huebner made a motion to approve J. Nelson as the Town's Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. M. Case seconded and the motion to approve was unanimous.
5. The Board signed a letter to Richard Loveszy of Bucksteep LLC enumerating several kinds of compliance issues that he must address
6. Town Clerk Allison Mikaniewicz discussed the Tax Collector's resignation with the Board. Belinda Phillips has submitted her letter of resignation and leaves on November 30. The Board has already appointed Sue McGrath, presently Assistant Tax Collector, to the post of Tax Collector beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. Allison pointed out that she can hold this position until the next annual election. That will occur this spring. J. Huebner asked if we can change the position to an appointed rather than an elected one. Allison told him that would have to be approved by the Town. J. Huebner will put a notice in the Tracks to see if anyone in Town is interested in running for that position. He noted that the Cultural Council also needs another member.

7. On the subject of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline, J. Huebner mentioned that the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) will attend the Select Board meeting on the 8th of December. Berkshire Regional Planning will be here on December 15 to share their information on the Pipeline. Kinder-Morgan has already presented to the Town and their materials are posted on the Town web site for all to review. If the Town wants to have Kinder-Morgan again he will try to arrange it.
8. P. Clark told the Board that we may have access to a temporary bridge for Middlefield Road. He will go to Lee to measure that bridge. It must fit the abutments. We will have to get a loan agreement with DCR. Mass DOT will need to be notified too. It is Rated for 45 tons. D. Fish said that we can get help installing it from the Middlefield Highway crew.
9. The Board announced a Special Town Meeting for Dec. 15. D. Fish has requested the meeting to transfer funds for machinery maintenance, road and bridge and engineering/design expenses. He told the Board that we have 110 tons of salt as of today. CSX has agreed to install guardrail on Upper Valley Road at the junction with Summit Hill Road. As MassDOT has rated them hazardous, Jersey barriers will go up on Lower Valley Road and Lower Sargent Road later this week. "Bridge Closed" signs are already in place.
10. J. Huebner told the Board that Holden Engineering had signed and returned the contract he had sent them for hydrologic studies and design work on the Cross Place Road culvert. He made a motion that the Board accept the contract as signed. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous. All Board members added their signatures to the contract. A copy will be sent to Holden.
11. J. Huebner mentioned that the representative from Mass. Development is looking into grant money for Virginia Estates planning.

12. He is still investigating our options for the Borgnis dump off Washington Mt. Road. The fact that Washington used the dump in addition to other parties between 1971-75 may disqualify the Town from receiving clean-up funding.
13. The Board reviewed letters given to them by Peter Blake, our Veterans' Agent. The letters described his recent professional training and his thoughts on a possible new Town war memorial. P. Blake asked for the Board's direction on how he should proceed with the memorial project. J. Huebner told him that we have no guidelines to offer. M. Case mentioned that he has been able to make progress on getting Pittsfield to finish the work of transferring those 5 acres on Washington Mt. Road for cemetery use. He suggested some of this property as a possible location for an expanded memorial park.

P. Blake asked practical questions like who should be designated to care for the site. What we have now at the Old Town Hall is a "veterans' memorial" . It is designated as such because it lists names. A "war memorial" is constructed differently. No names are listed. The Board asked P. Blake to develop his recommendations. The Board inclined toward a war memorial as it commemorates all Town veterans, even those whose names we may not have. The final decision on such a memorial would be made by Town residents who would also be asked to defray at least part of the cost. J. Huebner suggested that a task force be put together to work on this project. In addition to P. Blake he asked Chief Breen to work on this project.

14. J. Huebner mentioned that he and M. Case, in addition to some members of the finance committee, will be attending the MBI presentation on the WiredWest broadband project in Becket tomorrow night.
15. J. Hostetter gave the Board an update on her activities this past week. She has prepared the preliminary draft of the 2012 Annual Report. She is hoping that Ed Bond will write a dedication to John Keator for that report. She is doing some fact checking on that report. She will have a final draft for the next meeting. She also expects to have the 2013 Annual Report

done this year. She has started work on 2014. She has submitted her work on the By-Laws and awaits feed-back and corrections. J. Huebner told her to push on that and keep him updated on the response. He told her that Berkshire Public Health Alliance (BPHA) wants to move on providing administrative support for member towns' Boards of Health. He asked that she and Scott Krzanik meet with him and BPHA on this effort.

16. The Board reported receiving \$90.00 from Paul Cancilla in payment for an electric permit fee.

17. Belinda Phillips and Sue McGrath joined the meeting to discuss Sue's salary. Sue told the Board that she will be doing 2 jobs when she takes over the Tax Collector's post – hers and Belinda's. Belinda agreed. She said Sue's work load will double. Her salary would be \$699.00 per month plus fees. J. Huebner made a motion that Sue be paid the Assistant and the Senior Tax Collector's salaries plus fees. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. Sue will be paid monthly. The Board instructed her to go to the Town Clerk to be sworn in.

18. The Board asked D. Fish about the status of Upper Sargent Road. He has put up signs that it is not maintained during the winter months. He removed the concrete blocks from the road at a resident's request. The road is hazardous and will be blocked off quickly enough by the plows building up a barrier to passage. He can easily open the road up again if needed by WMECO. GPS currently confuses travelers and sends them up the road.

19. Chief Breen told the Board that the ABS module on the Cruiser failed and that he had it repaired. He received approval on the grant for the emergency equipment trailer. He told the Board that the emergency radio is not working yet. We need to install a socket in the closet for charging. He has made keys to the closet for all emergency management personnel. Discussion followed about purchasing more radios. There was general agreement that they do not work too well in our hilly terrain. Cell phones

might be better. The cost of new radios will be about \$1200 each. P. Clark pointed out that we will need alternate communications in case cell phones go down.

20. The Board received an agenda for the upcoming November 20<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Regional Planning Meeting and asked that it be posted.

21.J. Huebner opened a confidential letter from the Mass. Board of Health. He reported that it contained information on infectious disease statewide. There were events in 2010 and 2012. Both were routine.

22. He completed the MMA's Chapter 90 Local Road Funding Survey. MMA uses this information collected from all member towns annually to lobby the legislature for more road, bridge and other highway- related repair funding. The survey has great credibility as the information comes directly from the towns.

23. At 8:05 J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn. S. Lennon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes written by J. Nelson