

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – December 8, 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 meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2014. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
3. Abe Guthrie informed the Board that his family is ready to begin work on their private connection to the Mass Broadband cable running along Route 8. They plan to run a wire through conduit from Route 8 to their property up on Beach Road. The conduit will be buried. J. Huebner asked A. Guthrie for a plan of the route of the connection from the pole on Route 8 to their residence, as part of it will cross a small portion of both Town and state land. Abe replied that he will provide a plan for the Board. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the Guthries' internet connection. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. J. Huebner advised A. Guthrie that he should get an easement request drawn up by his lawyer to be approved by the Town at Annual Town Meeting just to be sure that no access disputes arise in the future.
4. J. Huebner reviewed and signed the Finance Committee's application for a DLTA grant to obtain funding for professional assistance in developing a long-term financial plan for the Town. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) selects the grant winners and disburses the grant money. Finance Committee Chair Kent Lew met with BRPC for information about the program and guidance on writing our application.
5. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received a \$25.00 check from Sweatland Oil for a permit to install a new burner at the Phillips' residence on Lovers Lane.

6. The Board received a letter emailed from Phil Clark confirming Horizon Consulting Services' willingness to serve as the designated Town Liaison with respect to the Cross Place Road Culvert Project being designed by Holden Engineering & Surveying, Inc. P. Clark will coordinate communications between the Town and Holden. He will distribute relevant existing Town information to them, monitor their work efforts and provide progress reports, including any design issues that may arise, to the Board. He proposed establishing a budget of \$3,000 which will not be exceeded without prior Town authorization. J. Huebner made a motion to accept this proposal. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

P. Clark also gave the Select Board a copy of a letter he had emailed to Mr. Mark DeVylder , District Bridge Engineer at MassDOT District 1 in Lenox. This letter was in reply to MassDOT's request for a Bridge Rating Report for a temporary bridge installation at Middlefield Road. The Department of conservation and recreation (DCR) has such a bridge available and is ready to provide it to us. Referencing the importance of installing the temporary bridge as soon as possible, P. Clark attached an electronic copy of the Rating Report for Mr. DeVylder. P. Clark mentioned in his email that once we have MassDOT approval we will inspect the bridge at the DCR facility and again at the Middlefield Road site to identify missing or damaged components before opening it to traffic

7. The Board received notice from the state of a filing by WMECO for the state's approval of their annual rate increase. That notice will be posted at Town Hall.
8. In response to a request from Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) all Board members signed 2 copies of an agreement with the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility and Waste Management Recycle America to continue using that facility for the Town's recycling . Transfer Station Manager Michelle Lampro will see that the state receives its copy.

9. J. Huebner reported receiving a call on Friday from a representative of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Company informing him of a change in the proposed route of the project. The revised route will no longer pass through any part of Washington. It will instead follow a utility corridor from Stephentown, New York entering Massachusetts at Hancock, crossing through parts of Cheshire, Windsor, Dalton, Peru and Northfield before entering New Hampshire and travelling east to Dracut, MA.

- 10.D. Fish told the Board that CSX has installed the guard rails on Upper Valley Road as requested. He will inspect them for sturdiness. The Board also asked Phil Clark to determine if a fence or other barriers are needed.

11. J. Huebner received an email from FEMA stating that they will release the funding for Eden Glen by the end of this year.

- 12.J. Huebner reported that Paul Greene, Building Inspector, told him that he had inspected the plans for a handicapped ramp to be installed at Bucksteep and that he approved the plan as compliant with ADA standards. Health Agent Scott Krzanik informed the Board that Bucksteep LLC has scheduled a Title 5 inspection. However, there has been no kitchen inspection yet by health officials. The Board said that there will be no liquor license issued until all work on the facility is inspected and approved and we are sure that there will be no mixing of the autistic counseling business and the wedding/events business. J. Hostetter hand delivered a letter which had just been given to her for the Board from R. Loveszy, owner of Bucksteep. The Board will review this letter when it meets next week.

13. J. Huebner reported no news on the cemetery land, North lake estates, the Borgnis landfill or the proposed war memorial.

- 14.At 7: 20 pm J. Huebner introduced Rosemary Wessel of the organization no-fracked-gas-in-mass and requested she start her scheduled

presentation. The presentation took about one hour and was very thorough and informative. We will attach a copy of her slides to these minutes. Interested parties can also find this information on the web site nofrackedgasinmass.org. Some of the points Ms. Wessel made were as follows:

- The company still has 1.5 yrs. to change the pipeline's route.
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the authority which licenses the company and governs its activities.
- Even though they will now follow the utility corridor, the company will clear a 100' right of way. The pipeline can't actually run under or even close alongside the electric high voltage wires.
- They will build 3 large compression stations along the route. These will be in Northfield, Windsor and Hancock. Each will be on 50 to 100 acres and will be barn-size. They are brightly lit 24 hrs. per day. They have a constant noise level of about 80 decibels. From these locations cleaning pigs run through the pipes. Some venting of gas is caused by this activity.
- Emergency shut-off valves are located every 10 to 12 miles in rural settings. These also vent gas.
- The incidence of pipeline explosions is rising nationally. The current rate is more than one weekly.
- Some toxic residues from fracking travel through the pipes and are vented along with the gas.
- Studies have shown that a pipeline on one's property lowers the value by 10 to 30%. Even the threat of a pipeline lowers property values.
- FERC has no standard for set back from buildings.
- The need for more natural gas in the Northeast may be less than has been estimated. It is a complex calculation and many unknowns are involved.
- Over 50% of our energy in the northeast is now supplied by natural gas, leaving us vulnerable to price swings in that commodity.

- Property owners along pipelines can refuse to let the companies survey their land.
- NoFrackedGasInMass has collected 13,000 signatures on its petition opposing the pipeline. 41 towns have passed resolutions in opposition to the project. Our legislators have made statements in opposition. Land trusts and conservation groups in the state have also voiced their opposition.
- Ms. Wessel urged Washington to pass the resolution in opposition to show solidarity with all the towns who have done so and because over the next year and a half the pipeline route could change again.

15. After the conclusion of the program, J. Huebner told Dave Drugmand that he can alter the wording of the resolution to be voted on at next week's Special Town Meeting during the meeting. It should reflect the change in the pipeline route.

16. BRPC has organized a group of Berkshire towns to monitor FERC's activity. All of the towns are opposed to the pipeline. BRPC will act as the group's advocate for the Berkshire's interests with FERC. We will hear from them on their program next week.

17. J. Huebner signed the annual grant application for the COA presented by COA Chair, Jeff Sawtelle.

18. The Finance Committee asked D. Fish to clarify if the highway crew had been compensated for their summer overtime. Dave confirmed that they had been paid. The Board asked G. Grogan to work on a policy with the Finance Committee for covering overtime

19. Ed Bond complained to the Board about the amount of salt put down on the roads before the most recent storm. He said that it polluted our brooks. D. Fish told the Board that he just followed their instructions on salting before a storm hit. The Board suggested that the salt was put down

too far in advance of the storm and perhaps in too large a quantity given the potential ecological damage and the high cost of salt. They recommended he use more sand around water and less salt overall.

20.J. Hostetter updated the Board on her work on the Annual Reports. The Planning Board will check her work on the by-laws. Allison corrected mistakes on the list of 2012 elected officials. She confirmed the meeting at BRHA this Friday.

21.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson