

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – December 22, 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 meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of December 15, 2014. M. Case seconded that motion and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. After brief discussion, J. Huebner made a motion to approve the December monthly Select Board letter for the Tracks. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.
4. P. Clark reported to the Board that he had written a chronology of our work to date preparing for the installation of the temporary bridge at the Middlefield Road site. He has a meeting scheduled with MassDOT on January 6 to update them and to try to get the approvals process moving so that we can go forward with installing the temporary bridge.
5. The Board reported receiving a check for \$25.00 for a gas line permit and another check for \$25.00 for water line work. A third check in the amount of \$45 was received for gas line plumbing work at 1726 Washington Mt. Road. An additional check in the amount of \$100.00 was received from JFSS Septic in payment for their annual permit.
6. MassDEP sent the Town update materials for our solid waste transfer station. The Board directed that these documents be given to M. Lampro for review.
7. J. Huebner reported that we received notice from the Town's insurer, MIIA, that we have a credit balance of \$774.00 on our account for dividends and participation credits. We have another credit balance in the amount of

\$675.00 for rewards and participation credits. The Board decided to ask MIIA to apply these funds to future insurance invoices.

8. D. Fish told the Board that we have a leak in the paper re-cycling container at the transfer station. He estimated that it would cost \$700.00 to fix the door, if that proves to be the source of the leak. M. Lampro is trying to pinpoint the source of the water and is investigating our repair options. There may be some grant funding available through CET.
9. M. Case asked D. Fish for an update on our new plow truck. Dave had spoken with the manufacturer and was informed that it is in process of being built and will be delivered in January.
10. Dr. Putnam, Superintendent of Schools for CBRSD, sent a letter to each of the seven member towns' Boards informing them about upcoming bargaining with several of the school district's employee units. Washington is to send a designee to a meeting on Jan. 7, 2015 to represent our interests in the election of one person from among the member towns to represent them all at the collective bargaining table. M. Case, Vice Chair of CBRSD, will represent Washington.
11. The Town received from MassDCR a detailed cutting plan for land in October Mountain State Forest submitted by the Bureau of Forestry. The Bureau of Forestry owns the land to be harvested. The Washington Conservation Commission had reviewed the plan earlier and signed off on it. The cutting is proposed to start June 1 and will involve 277 acres. Discussion followed on the subject of stumpage fees. P. Clark confirmed that we have no system for verifying and tracking these fees. It was suggested that Sean Connors could advise the Town on how to confirm the fees due and K. Lew on how to track them from a finance perspective.
12. J. Huebner received a letter from Kinder Morgan updating the Town on the new pipeline plan. The letter confirmed that the Town of Washington is no

longer impacted by the company's preferred route for the pipeline. That route has been changed to follow the utility corridor formed by the New York Powerline Alternative and the New Hampshire Powerline Alternative. Additional information can be found on the company's website at nedinfo@kindermorgan.com.

13.P. Clark told the Board that MassDOT has not posted the 6 ton weight restriction on the Summit Hill Road Bridge in an acceptable manner. The state told him that the hazard notice they gave the Town as a public domain document is adequate. He disagrees. There has been no posting at the site yet. Until such time as the weight restriction is posted, we will use the bridge as before. The state's restriction to 6 tons will force many large vehicles such as fire trucks, town plow trucks, septic haulers and oil/propane delivery trucks to take long detours to reach homes on the upper part of Summit Hill Road.

14.S. Nelson gave the Board an update on WiredWest's progress toward building a "last-mile" fiber network to provide high-speed internet service to people in Washington and other WiredWest member towns. To qualify to become a "Fiber Town" as part of the network, 40% of a town's households must pre-commit to taking service. Select Boards are being asked to send a letter to all households in their towns, paid for by WiredWest, with a service sign-up sheet enclosed to be returned to the organization. Nelson will bring a draft of the letter to the Board at its meeting on January 5.

15.FEMA has notified the Town that we will receive \$ 788,000 toward rebuild the culvert and roadbed at the junction of Frost Road and Depot Brook. P. Clark said that by his estimate the Town will need about \$315,000 more to complete the job. J. Huebner asked if MEMA will help with funding. P. Clark said that this was not likely, but that he would look into it. We will have to go to our delegation for support in Boston. P. Clark will prepare an estimate of what our cost will be for the deck design on the Middlefield/Becket Rd.

bridge. J. Huebner said that he would like to see an estimate for the complete install there and also for the Cross Place Road bridge. He would like to have a Special Town Meeting to deal with all of these funding challenges.

16. Having unanimously voted to approve the Town's joining the Hampshire Council of Government's (HCOG's) bulk electricity purchase program at the Dec. 15 Special Town Meeting, the Board signed the contract from HCOG. J. Huebner explained that over the course of the next few months HCOG will be negotiating rates for next winter with a number of electricity providers. As part of this process they will need more data on the town for RFP purposes. At the end of this process we will have a selection of providers to choose from. Individual residents can opt in or out of the program at any point. We are one of 35 towns across the state in the plan so far.

17.J. Huebner mentioned the following briefly:

- a. A note from MassDOT that they received his note to them re the Middlefield/Becket Road bridge.
- b. P. Clark had sent a note to Holden engineering requesting an update on work done to date and a schedule for next steps.
- c. The CIC grant to develop affordable municipal accounting software has been funded at \$39,000. An additional \$50,000, donated by a generous and civic-minded town, has been added to the fund total.
- d. A beaver permit is needed by an Upper Valley resident.
- e. He has invited Mr. Loveszy of Bucksteep, the Planning Board and other interested parties to the Jan. 5 Selectmen's meeting to discuss the status of the property. The Board has learned that Bucksteep has failed septic inspection.
- f. The Finance Committee submitted the 2013-2014 End-of-Year Pupil and Financial Report to the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. nelson