

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – January 12, 2015

1. M. Case called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Attending for the Board were M. Case and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, M. Case made a motion to accept the minutes from January 5, 2014. S. Lennon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. The Board discussed with Highway Superintendent D. Fish an issue regarding track access with D. Fish reporting that a jersey barrier was placed near the tracks, it providing enough room for CSX vehicles to pass but others vehicles were passing as well. The Highway Crew then blocked the bridge access with a tree. CSX called and complained about tree stating that they needed access to the tracks but did not want to be limited to taking the tracks the closed off portion. CSX had the Rail Police to talk to D. Fish about removing the tree. D. Fish suggested that CSX talk to the Selectmen about installing an access gate.
4. After discussion the Board signed the Pipeline Resolution letter drafted by J. Huebner.
5. D. Fish reported nothing new regarding the restrictions to Summit Hill Road.
6. D. Fish informed the Board that the Becket Road temporary bridge will not fit, that he has to do more jack hammering to remove concrete to get the bridge to set in place.
7. There was a discussion on the completion of a plan for the Cross Place Road Bridge. D. Fish did not know if P. Clark had filed the Chapter 85 review.
8. D. Fish submitted to the Board the completed Eden Glenn MEMA contract then reported that per an email from P. Clark the contract is ready for mailing.
9. Vera Cormier of Washington Mountain Road addressed the Board with a complaint regarding damages resulting from the Highway Department's snow plowing technique stating that a couple years ago her rear windshield had been broken, last year the rear window was cracked and her mail box was split. This year the entire mail box is gone, she found it about four feet down the road. She had to rig it to get it to stand back up but every time the plow goes by the mailbox is turned and tipped. The plow went by

the other day, while she was cleaning off the snow from her car she got covered by a wave of slush adding that on the way back he waived. She thinks that D. Fish plows to fast as all the snow or slush from the road goes onto her car. D. Fish apologized to her. The Board asked D. Fish to fix the mailbox and to slow down. The Board also wished her a happy 75th Birthday.

10. The Board signed permits for the Summit Hill Campground.
11. J. Hostetter weekly report informed the Board that she is still awaiting crucial reports for the FY2013 and FY2014 Annual Reports. She has completed FY2010 minutes and resumed with FY2009 minute scanning. There was nothing new to report regarding the digitalized by-law sign off from the Planning Board.
12. Tricia Drugmand asked the Board if they had already discussed the CSX Bridge and guard rail or what the outcome of the January 6th meeting with the DOT. D. Fish reported that DOT is still looking into ways to improve the bridge and increasing the weight limit. There is currently no timeline for that discussion. CSX will look at it in the spring. The Bridge will be posted for 6 tons. Waivers can be granted by submitting an application to the MA DOT. A waiver must be granted to a specific vehicle, not a fleet. DOT stressed that the bridges are not unsafe, that they are structural deficient. Anything rated below a 4 are considered unsafe. There was discussion on who owns the bridge, CSX or the state. K. Walls stated that the State has taken over the responsibility from CSX. K. Wall inquired into how the limit on the bridge applies to emergency vehicles like fire trucks and ambulances. M. Case stated that those vehicles must also get a waiver, that the Fire Department is responsible for the application. D. Fish added that the calculation is based on weight between axles, distance between axles. DOT will tell him (D. Fish) if it is safe for truck to go over the bridge. There was discussion what can be done if a waiver is not granted with the decision that it is also the Fire Department issue to work out with Hinsdale if it is necessary to by-pass the bridge.
13. M. Case mentioned that Smitty Pignatelli and Ben Downing are looking to stock piling temporary bridges as there are a lot of structural deficient bridges in the area. In the DOT meeting the State said that it is their responsibility to tell the town what is wrong with the bridge and it is the town's responsibility to fix it.
14. There was a discussion on the closing of the Middlefield Bridge adding 30 minutes to the commute to Pittsfield.

15. M. Case reported that there was nothing new to report on the North Lake Estates, the Borgnis Landfill or the War Memorial.
16. M. Case spoke to Darrin Lee, Attorney for the City of Pittsfield regarding acquiring five acres of land by Beech Road for cemetery use.
17. NO meeting next week.
18. M. Case read a letter dated January 8, 2015 certifying that the Town of Washington Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2015 has been increased from \$169,675.00 to \$254,512.00.
19. M. Case entered into the record receipt of a \$150.00 check from Maureen Borgnis for a Septic Plan.
20. M. Case entered into the record a letter from the Colrain Board of Selectmen expressing concern with the recent proposal by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and Wired West to install the "Last Mile" fiber network in unserved communities in western and central Massachusetts including the town of Colrain.
21. M. Case entered into the record a Public Hearing Meeting notice from the Town of Lee regarding a Public Hearing on an application of Harold Sherman for approval of a Special Permit for 505 Laurel Street.
22. M. Case entered into the record the MMA Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2015. None of the Selectmen will be attending.
23. Chief Breen suggested that the Emergency Management group purchase three cell phones instead of three radios. It would require additional money from Finance Committee. M. Case asked Chief Breen to talk to Finance Committee. Conservation held pending full board.
24. M. Case motioned to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:38 PM for the joint meeting with the Finance Committee. S. Lennon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted by J. Hostetter