

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – February 9, 2015

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 from January 26, 2015. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. Chief Breen informed the Board that he had completed a course through the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services. He passed the qualifying test and received his certificate. He mentioned that there are new firearm regulations. He will have details on this to post shortly. S. Lennon mentioned that there had been 2 accidents on Washington Mountain Road recently. The State Police had handled these and Chief Breen was aware of this.
4. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received a copy of the annual appropriation request from the Becket Athenaeum to the Town of Becket. The Athenaeum will be asking Washington for a warrant line item to help fund capital maintenance project expenses.
5. M. Case and J. Huebner will attend the seven town CBRSD advisory meeting on February 26.
6. The Board reported receiving a check for \$25.00 from Clifford Propane in payment for an application to install a gas tank and gas piping on Thomas Delaney's property.
7. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from WMECO confirming that there are two street lights in Washington.

8. M. Case seconded and the Board unanimously approved a motion from J. Huebner to sign 3 letters which he had drafted to DOT concerning the Town's bridge issues. All of the letters were directed to Peter Niles at DOT District One. The first provided DOT an update on our design work to replace the temporary bridge on Cross Place Road, on installing the temporary bridge on Middlefield Road and on restructuring the bridge on Frost Road at Depot Brook. In addition to Peter Niles, the second letter was addressed to State Bridge Engineer A. K. Bartrow. It summarized our reasons for not restoring the bridges on Lower Valley and Lower Sargent Roads.

The third letter addressed issues concerning the bridge over the CSX tracks on Summit Hill Road. J. Huebner cited a December 2008 DOT letter in our files in which DOT recognized that this bridge needed to be replaced over 6 years ago, but never funded that project. While some repairs were done to the bridge the following April and inspections have been done in the interim, no substantial work has been done by the state, which now orders us to close that bridge to vehicles heavier than 6 tons thus imposing a significant hardship on our residents. The Board demanded immediate repairs and remediation.

9. As Board Chair, J. Huebner signed the Massachusetts Cultural Council's annual contract for the town's grant of \$4300.00.
10. J. Huebner made a motion that we sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) for the Town's membership in the working group organized and led by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) to keep us apprised of all developments in the Kinder-Morgan pipeline project and to position us to best protect the Town's interests as they may be affected. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. J. Huebner reassured M. Case that as more

towns sign the IMA, cost to members will decrease and that the Town will withdraw from the group when it ceases to be productive.

11. D .Fish told the Board that Middlefield Road had been posted for 5 tons.
12. Color copies of the final version of BRPC's Washington Road Condition Report were distributed to the Board and Finance Committee. D. Fish received a copy for the Highway Department.
13. Kent Lew, Finance Committee Chair, told the Board that the Committee needs reliable estimates of the cost to the Town of the various bridge and perhaps dam projects. We must have as much clarity as we can get to be sure we are asking for the correct sum on the warrant for the March Special Town Meeting. J. Huebner replied that we have to get together with Phil Clark on this. He will ask P. Clark to attend the next Select Board meeting. That will be held Monday, February 23, as there will be no meeting next week due to the President's Day holiday. He explained that even though we will receive funding from FEMA for a good portion of the Eden Glen repairs, that money will only be available to the Town after the work is done. It will be a reimbursement, not start-up money. K. Lew said that we need to understand the cost of short-term borrowing. The tentative date of the STM is March 16.
14. J. Huebner mentioned that no resident has come forward in response to our call for tax collector applicants. Consequently, we will need to publish on the warrant a request to change the status of Tax Collector from elected to appointed. The salary for that position is already established.
15. Discussion of the Eden Glen dam followed. The question before the Town is what is the best flood control strategy. Are we better off

removing the dam, routing the stream through a wider culvert and rebuilding the bridge or is the historic, sentimental and aesthetic appeal of the “swimming hole” important enough for us to seek another solution.

16.J. Huebner mentioned that it is time for us to consider our most critical highway needs so that we can hold our place on the Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP) list. He wants to keep alive our chance at a complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road. D. Fish mentioned some culvert needs on Lover’s Lane near the Phillips’ property.

17.All Committees and Departments are asked to return their annual budget forms to the Finance Committee by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those forms are in each group’s respective mail box in the hallway at Town Hall.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to authorize D. Fish to hire temporary help as needed during the winter months. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

19.J Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson