

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – March 16, 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 of March 9, 2015. M. Case seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner said that he will attend the Transportation Commission (TAC) meeting at Berkshire Regional Planning tomorrow in Mike Case's place.
4. There will be a Berkshire County Board of Health Associations meeting on Thursday, 3/19.
5. The next Selectmen's Dinner will be held at Chrisseys Farm in Great Barrington later this month.
6. J. Huebner read a brief letter he had drafted to Mike Moro expressing the Select Board's interest in the "Sunday Evening in the Park" concert series which he had proposed. The Board took a formal vote to proceed with it at last week's meeting on March 9. In his letter J. Huebner informed M. Moro that he will be responsible for publicizing the concerts, and for working with Administrative Assistant J. Hostetter to get his permits in place. She will tell him if there are any other events in conflict with his Sunday night schedule. M. Moro will also have to coordinate with the Parks commission and Chief Breen on arrangements for the events. Additionally he must keep the Board updated on his progress as they want to mention the concert series in their next monthly letter to be published in the Tracks. J. Huebner made a motion to approve this letter. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. All Board members signed the letter.

7. Ed Bond, Parks Commission Director, gave J. Huebner forms required for a Park use application. The Chair will ask J. Hostetter to scan and post them on the Town web site.
8. J. Huebner signed the state Permission to Operate a Transfer Station application prepared by Phil Clark. P. Clark will submit the forms to MassDEP.
9. J. Huebner reported that Governor Baker has filed a 200 million dollar Chapter 90 bond bill. This will be combined with the one hundred million dollars released in January and would, if enacted, provide cities and towns with a total of 300 million dollars in Chapter 90 funds for the 2015 construction season. We will urge our delegation to support this initiative to increase and speed up the distribution of these funds so vital to the functioning of all towns' Public Works Departments. Governor Baker is hoping for an April 1 enactment of the bond bill.
10. The Finance Committee reported that our CBRSD school budget has increased by 5.5% as expected. The district-wide increase for the 7 member towns is 2.5 %.
11. The Town has received approval from Peter Niles at DOT for our plans to erect the temporary Middlefield Road Bridge. The Board gave this lengthy document to Dave Fish for his review.
12. The Select Board received a letter from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School setting the out-of-district tuition for the 2015-2016 school year at \$17, 556 per student. This figure represents a slight decrease from last year.
13. The Board also received a lengthy document from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Administration (MEMA) authorizing an April 19 start to the work on Frost Road culvert as authorized under our Eden Glen

grant. Work must be completed by the end of 2015. P. Clark will oversee this effort.

14. J. Huebner mentioned receiving an invitation for anyone interested in attending the Massachusetts Open Space Conference on Saturday, May 9 in Ashburnham , Mass. Details of the conference will be posted at Town Hall.
15. He also reported receiving a letter from Eric Nakajima, Director of the Mass. Broadband Institute, containing recommended language for the WiredWest funding initiative for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. S. Nelson, our WiredWest delegate and WiredWest Governance Chair, told the Board that this language is still being discussed and may change a bit before the ATM. They may add an explanatory article to inform voters in more detail about what they are being asked to approve. He will keep the Board updated on this. He also asked Board permission to hold an open house informational and sign-up meeting for Town residents interested in getting broadband service at Town Hall on April 18 from 9:00 to 1:00. At the Board's suggestion he agreed to give two 15 minute presentations at the open house – one at 10:00 and another at 12:00. The presentations will each be followed by an open question and answer session. WiredWest volunteers will be there to help residents who wish sign up at that time. He will check with Jodi Hostetter on availability of the auditorium for that day. A notice of the meeting will be put in Tracks.
16. Lauren Gaherty of Berkshire Regional Planning sent the Select Board a number of forms to be completed for submission with the grant application she is writing for the Town. If we receive the grant it will fund a comprehensive study of our watershed below the Eden Glen culvert. No matching funds will be required from the Town. The Board asked Administrative Assistant J. Nelson to complete these forms for signing at next Monday's meeting.

17. At 7:15 pm Board Chair J. Huebner suspended the Selectmen's Meeting and asked Moderator E. Bond to commence the Special Town Meeting (STM) as scheduled. Town Clerk Allison Mikaniewicz took minutes of the STM.

18. E. Bond adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 7:45.

19.J. Huebner called the Selectmen's Meeting to order again at 7:56.

20. There being no further business brought before the Board ,the Chair made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved:_____

Approved:_____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson