

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – April 13, 2015

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 accept the minutes from April 6, 2015. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. M. Case mentioned that he had attended a meeting at Central Berkshire Regional School District headquarters which focused on the consolidation of school districts. Senator Ben Downing was also in attendance. Declining enrollments and the high costs of maintaining under-utilized school buildings will force districts to consolidate. It was forecast that Berkshire County will have only 5 or 6 high schools. Each high school needs 1000 students today to be effective.
4. J. Huebner read a letter from Governor Charlie Baker about the release of an additional \$200,000,000 for road maintenance in cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. Washington's portion should be \$169,436 in addition to our annual Chapter 90 total.
5. Vera Cormier and Barbara Keyes reported that they both received their Board of Health Training Certificates from the state last week after the meeting in Northampton. Along with J. Huebner both will also attend the April 30<sup>th</sup> BRPC dinner meeting at Pittsfield Country Club on the subject of "Healthier Homes". J. Huebner scheduled a meeting of the Town Board of Health on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.
6. J. Huebner mentioned that Selectmen, Finance Committees and Broadband committee members are invited to attend the Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> MBI session in Becket. This will focus on details of towns preparing their grant

applications to obtain state funds. Kent Lew will attend that session. Jim Huebner and Mike Case plan to attend the Saturday, April 18 session for residents who have questions about signing up for WiredWest service. This meeting will be ongoing at Washington Town Hall from 9:00 am to 1:00pm.

7. J. Huebner reported receipt of a notice from our insurance company, MIIA, that the Town has received a \$337.00 dividend. The Selectmen had decided that any dividend would be applied to future insurance coverage needs.
8. Notice was received from CSX that AMEK Foster Wheeler will be in charge of their right of way management.
9. Ed Bond reported that the Parks Commission had approved an application from Lee Nagy for use of the Town Park for the lacrosse league. Lacrosse teams would use the field starting on April 1 through June 30. There will be from 50 to 75 participants. E. Bond reviewed Town Park rules with him and gave him a copy of them. He told the Board that Mark Levernoch will fix the park bathrooms. Ed told the Board that only a few residents attended the recent Parks Commission meeting. He gave the Finance Commission (FinComm) his best estimate of the budget currently needed for the park. This includes mowing, bike path refurbishing, deck paint, and lumber. This year's spring work day will be May 2. Dave Drugmand or Cynthia Grippaldi will organize it. E. Bond got new lower prices on Old Town Hall replacement windows and gave them to the FinComm and the Historic Commission. He told the Board that he had signed the application from Mike Moro to use the park for evening concerts from 5:00pm to dark. Finding no objection from fellow Board members, J. Huebner agreed to the evening concert program.
10. The Board received information on new training initiatives from MIIA. They alerted D. Fish to upcoming instruction in Hadley on chain saw felling and debris removal. In addition there were webinars on alcohol abuse

prevention and treatment available .D. Fish told the Board that he also received that email from MIIA.

- 11.M. Case reported that he recently had an opportunity to speak with Pittsfield Mayor Bianci about the 5 acres of cemetery land due to the Town. Mr. Lee of the Mayor's office is asking for additional information. M. Case will follow up with him. The Mayor told Mike that he has no problem with the land transfer.
12. Regarding the Middlefield Road bridge, J. Huebner said that reconstruction is a year away. We are trying to see if we can use some Ch. 90 money on that structure. It has been redecked and is passable now.
- 13.J. Hostetter told the Board that she is working to get Town applications up on our web site. Currently she is working on the driveway and curb cuts package. The Board asked her to see that the Conservation Commission gets a copy of these forms and any completed applications. She is also working on the USDA Audit. She was planning to do a draft of the Annual Town Meeting warrants for next Monday. J. Huebner reminded her that due to the Patriot's Day holiday there will be no meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. She added that the ATM warrant must be posted on or before Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 14.J. Huebner asked Chief Breen if he had made any progress with contacting the companies which route their heavy trucks over Washington Mt. Road. Chief replied that he had left messages but has had no calls returned yet. He will continue to work at this. He told the Board that he will receive new training on firearms regulations. A new Criminal Justice Information Terminal will be installed in his office. The government will bill us quarterly for their portion of what we charge for gun permits. The whole system will be changing.

15. A resident addressed the Board and asked to have Old Middlefield Road graded. He is located past the camp grounds. D. Fish said this work is on his list and he will get to it as soon as he can. The resident was upset and critical of the highway department's work on this issue last year. J. Huebner asked the resident to let him know the road's status after the work is done.
16. Karen Avalle told J. Huebner that she had heard from Richard Loveszy of Bucksteep and reminded him of the certification forms that he must complete and return to her by May 1 or lose his non-profit status.
17. Peter Blake told the Board that he has been updating the Finance Committee on anticipated veterans' service costs. His recommendation is that we go regional for these services and join with Northampton. It would be less costly for the Town. J. Huebner told him that he will contact the Middlefield Select Board Chair and discuss this with him. Middlefield has already joined the regional service center at Northampton. He will discuss their experience to date with this arrangement.
- P. Blake also explained for the Board the government's definition of a Washington veteran eligible for listing on a memorial. Qualified individuals would have to have been residents of Washington at the time of their enlistment and have been honorably discharged. He mentioned that there are many veterans who have lived in Town for years who would not meet this qualification. He gave the Board a summary list of those he could qualify. He said that the project should go to the Town's residents now for a decision on whether they want a new memorial or not. He recommends that if we do go forward, the memorial should be at Town Hall, near to the "seat of government". J. Huebner said that he will write a brief statement for the Annual Town Meeting.
18. K. Lew told the Board that with Ed Bond's reduced window replacement costs, overall increase to the budget will be entirely due to non-

discretionary items like insurance and schools. He will write a summary for the Board. He mentioned that he and Dick Spencer had a productive meeting with BRPC this afternoon. They discussed the technical assistance grant awarded to the Town. The initial work will be on technical analysis, followed by long-range financial planning. Policy development will be the next phase of the work. His intention is to factor in development of the Town's potential revenue sources like Virginia Lake Estates.

19. In response to a request from S. Nelson, our WiredWest delegate, J. Huebner agreed to put the WiredWest warrant close to the start of the ATM. WiredWest is approved for a five to ten minute presentation before the vote.

20 J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

