

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – April 27, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from April 13, 2015. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Monthly Letter. M. Case seconded and the letter was approved.
4. J. Huebner signed the final version of the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant. He requested that the administrative assistants email a copy of the Selectmen's Monthly Letter and the ATM warrant to L. Guthrie for the Tracks. K. Lew, Finance Committee Chair, said that he will email his summary of the ATM warrant to L. Guthrie for publication. Chief Breen, as Constable, also signed the warrant and took the signed document to post immediately. Later in the meeting J. Huebner signed the Election warrant. Chief Breen added his signature as Constable and took that document to post.
5. S. Nelson, Town Delegate to WiredWest, asked the Board for permission to place a broadband enrollment sign in front of Town Hall. The Board granted permission. S. Nelson mentioned that he thought there would be a heavy turn-out for the ATM due to the broadband question on the warrant. He raised the possibility that parking might be an issue. The Board told him to consult with Chief Breen on this.
6. Regarding handouts for the ATM, the Board mentioned that there will be one on the business by-law. P. Clark is writing one on the cost of the Eden Glen dam removal question, totally apart from the grant-funded work. K.

Lew and S. Nelson are working on a handout on the broadband article. J. Huebner said that the ATM will start with the questions and then go on to the budget.

7. J. Huebner asked new Board of Health members, B. Keyes and V. Cormier if they would attend a Temporary Food Event Certification Class to be held on May 11 from 5:00-7:00 in North Adams. They agreed to attend. They did attend a meeting for their initial Board of Health Certificates in Northampton on April 11 and submitted their expense report for that trip. The Board approved that expense report. They may attend an upcoming training on May 6 in South Hadley on Private Wells.
8. Next Monday night, May 4th, the Selectmen's meeting will be ½ hour long. It will be followed immediately by the Board of Health meeting.
9. J. Huebner asked Peter Blake if he would distribute a copy of his 3 page research report listing Washington veterans from the Revolutionary War to the present at the ATM. P. Blake told the Board that he had discussed the Northampton Regional Veterans' Agency with the Middlefield agent. The agent told him that they were pleased with the level of service from the regional organization. The representative was reliable in keeping his hours at Middlefield town hall. There was no problem with designating a private space for his meetings with the vets as the town hall is not in use by other groups when he has these appointments.
10. Chief Breen asked the Board if there were any records of cemeteries in October State Forest. J. Huebner told him to consult with Dick Grillon and S. Lennon on this question as they are our sextants.
11. Co-Administrative Assistant J. Nelson reported meeting last week at Town Hall with a phone Tech from Crocker Communications to review our requirements for restoring the kitchen phone and Chief Breen's phone. Ed Bond recommended an electrician who will do any wiring required more

cost effectively than either Crocker or Verizon. J. Nelson will keep the Board updated on the Town's options.

12. The Board received a Form of Notice of Casualty Loss to a building in Town at 190 Witt Hill Road. That notice from Cunningham & Lindsay is to be given to the Building inspector.
13. J. Huebner reported receiving a complaint about garbage and debris collecting at the red house at the crest of Frost Road. He will present the complaint to the BOH.
14. D. Fish reported receiving all of the paperwork for the Town's purchase of the vibratory roller. He made copies for the Board. The Town will receive \$25,451 for pothole repair. We will have a total of \$460,000 + in Chapter 90 funds even after paying for the vibratory roller. M. Case asked if the Town could perhaps arrange for the Sheriff's crew to do the pothole repair and free up D. Fish to work on other aspects of road maintenance. He will speak with S. Lennon about this idea.

J. Huebner reported that DOT has sent us failing bridge inspection reports for Lower Sargent and Lower Valley Road bridges. The Town has already closed these bridges. D. Fish told the Board that he checked his records and could confirm that he graded Old Middlefield Road last spring, despite the insistence by one of the residents to the contrary. He plans to mill and fill Kirchner Road over the next few weeks. Over the next few weeks he will be tarring cracks.

J. Huebner asked if we are postponing reconstructing the Middlefield Road bridge for a year. P. Clark and K. Lew agreed that was the plan and that the construction of the new Cross Place Road bridge would be paid out of Chapter 90 funds. K. Lew asked him if we can pay for some portion of the Cross Place Road bridge out of Ch. 90 funds. P. Clark told him that we can submit for future construction costs. We can also apply Ch. 90 funds for

engineering on the Middlefield Road Bridge. He added that work on the Eden Glen FEMA project is going forward. He has completed the borings. We have to wait on the wetlands plan until things begin to grow.

15. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from Thomas Tinlin, Acting Highway Administrator, informing the Town that District 1 is currently designing the replacement superstructure for the Summit Hill Road bridge. They will submit plans to CSX and the State Bridge Engineer within the next three to four weeks. The letter's contents were identical to the letter we received from Peter Niles of District 1 two weeks ago. From Peter Niles' office we received confirmation that District One State Aid has received and forwarded our Winter Recovery Assistance contract to Boston for processing.
16. The Board asked D. Fish to let Michelle Lampro know that there will be a meeting of the Solid Waste District next week.
17. The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Town of Dalton regarding a Special Permit for a property at 190 Hubbard Ave. The permit was granted with special conditions.
18. J. Huebner and M. Case attended the annual Selectmen's dinner last week. In a discussion of local broadband efforts, both Reps. Steve Kulik and Steve Marks told the attendees that there will be no more money coming from the state for broadband. They urged towns to act now for the future good of their communities. J. Huebner said that the Board will continue to support the work of WiredWest.
19. There is still no word from Bucksteep. No 501-c3 forms have been filed.
20. J. Nelson reported that the Assessors had received an inquiry from DCR about the status of the old South Center School (our little Red schoolhouse) located on Washington Mt. Rd. DCR is developing a plan to make October

Mt. State Forest more accessible for recreation. They asked if the old school house is on DCR land. The assessors have searched and can find no deed between the Town and DCR. The Historical Commission, however, did its own research and found that the South Center School has been listed on the National Register of Historical Places since 1986. This information has been communicated to DCR and we await their response.

21.J. Huebner asked Glenn Grogan to contact MIIA for information on our liability and the cost of insuring a “swimming hole”.

22. K. Lew told the Board that the Finance Committee needs to get a schedule from BRPC for their technical grant meetings.

23.J. Huebner reminded all attending about the May 2 Town Park Spring Clean-up and urged all to volunteer their help. He also reminded us that elections will be held on May 16.

24. J. Nelson was asked to consider attending the MASS buys EXPO in Worcester on April 30.

25.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

