

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 11, 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 May 4, 2015. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. M. Case told the Board that he cannot attend the June 1 meeting as he has to attend a meeting with the legislative delegation on that date.
4. J. Huebner reported that new Board of Health members Barbara Keyes and Vera Cormier attended a course on Private Wells last week in Northampton and both received Continuing Education Certificates for their participation.
5. P. Clark told the Board that he is still waiting for a more detailed report on the Cross Place Road bridge status from Holden Engineering. Regarding the Eden Glen dam, he said that we need to know just who owns that property. He will check the Registry of Deeds. Over the next few weeks he will be inspecting the dam as part of the FEMA project. As a result of this work we will be able to make a legal determinant. He will write up a condition report. This will be a visual inspection for cracks and other surface damage.

With regard to clearing out the debris behind the dam he mentioned that we face a legal impediment. At the time of the flooding, the Conservation Commission issued an emergency order to remove the debris, but the Town was unable to act before the 30 day limit expired. A suitable site to dump the material was not located. He indicated that we can try again, but the situation will be complicated if we have to remove sediment now along with the wood.

Discussion of the dam continued with Sean Connors adding that if we decide to keep the dam we must plan for annual maintenance. If we don't have an emergency we cannot look to the state for funds. There was general agreement that the culvert pipe installed ten years ago was too small for the flow. Plans for the work were not well thought through and mistakes were made. When the new pipe is installed we will be able to restore the road to its former width.

6. J. Huebner asked P. Clark to contact Ayal Shapira of Pugzee's Farm. Mr. Shapira expressed an interest in volunteering for the Conservation Commission. M. Case made a motion to nominate him to the Commission. J. Huebner seconded and the nomination was approved unanimously.
7. J. Huebner reported that a number of people have complained about having trouble hearing speakers in the auditorium. M. Case offered the use of his powerful PA to the Town for future meetings.
8. Vera Cormier complained that too much road salt was put down by the Highway department last winter. She still has an inch of salt at the edge of the road near her driveway. She is concerned that it will contaminate her well. Discussion followed on how best to treat the roads in winter conditions.
9. D. Fish told the Board that he had followed up on Mr. Blakely's complaint about too many loose stones on his road. The crew had cleared what they could. He had not yet responded to Rene Senecal's letter. Dave wanted to give Mr. Senecal (Highway Supt. of Hinsdale) time to think about his complaint that the Washington crew had helped him out by putting some stone down on Plunkett Reservoir Road without advance notice to Hinsdale.
10. The Board reported receiving a request from the MMA for a listing of all Town employees for their annual Directory.

- 11.J. Huebner said that he will contact Peter Niles of DOT again for an update on the state's plans for repairing Summit Hill Road bridge. Regarding the reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road, he confirmed that the \$8.5 million has been set aside by the state for that use. However, there could still be some delays in getting the work started.
12. Jane Pytko reminded the Board that White Wolf had damaged the Transfer Station recycling container, loosening some of the boards on the deck and the stairs. The Board asked her to speak with Craig and find out if he would repair the damage or if the Town should file an insurance claim.
- 13.J. Nelson to determine if Crocker or Verizon offers the Town a less expensive way to reinstate service to the kitchen phone. She reported no new developments on the South Center Schoolhouse and the DEQ's plans to improve the public's access to October Mountain State Forest.
14. Chief Breen told the Board that many changes will take place with the 911 service. There will be personnel reductions and the system will be much more automated. He believes that the Town will be best served by continuing with the service we now have which is provided by the county sheriff's department. At \$8,000 per year the service seems costly but it does operate under live supervision 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He believes it would be irresponsible not to provide it to the Town. He added that he plans to visit the companies which are sending the very heavy trucks over the Mountain Road.
- 15.S. Lennon mentioned that he had recently noticed a person dumping leaves from his truck at the pull off on the Dalton slope of Washington Mountain Road. He warned this individual that he was dumping illegally. He proposed that the Town install a "No Dumping" sign at that location to discourage others from doing the same. J. Huebner made a motion to that effect. M.

Case seconded and the vote in favor was unanimous. The Board asked D. Fish to install a sign.

16. J. Huebner said that the Transfer Station can apply for a grant to cover part of the cost of getting a new paper container. K. Lew added that we will be able to find \$1000 in our budget if needed to complete the container purchase if needed.
17. There will be a meeting on June 1 at the ITAM Lodge to discuss the results of the BRPC "Age Friendly Survey". The purpose of the survey was to determine what seniors need to make the county more livable. J. Huebner encouraged the Board of Health members to attend.
18. The Board discussed adoption of MGL 44-53. BRPC had provided information on this issue to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission. 44-53 would permit towns to charge developers in advance of construction for costs that the towns would incur as a result of their projects. That need arose from discussion of adverse impacts of the KM pipeline. The Board gave Sean Connors printed materials on this proposed by-law.
19. D. Fish told the Board that a number of curb cuts have been done without permits. He wants the building inspector to take a look at them. D. Fish to notify P. Greene of this situation. D. Fish to update J. Huebner on progress with these inspections.
20. The Board received documents relevant to a suit filed by Nathaniel Larson in response to the Town's refusal to grant him a tax abatement. The documents were given to the Assessors for processing.
21. J. Huebner reported receiving an announcement of training on emergency shelters by MEMA to be held in Pittsfield on June 23 and urged the Town's emergency responders to attend.

22.J. Huebner asked Sean Lennon to draft a letter to Sheriff Bowler asking for a crew to work for the Town on a number of jobs including pothole filling, Town Park clean-up and painting the Old Town Hall. J. Nelson to review S. Lennon's draft.

23.J. Huebner reminded all that Town elections will be held this Saturday.

24. There will be no Selectmen's meeting on May 25, Memorial Day.

25. There will be a Capital Assets meeting on June 15.

26.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 7:56. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson