

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 18, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:04. 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 11, 2015. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. M. Case made a motion to elect the new Chair of the Board of Selectmen. S. Lennon seconded the motion. M. Case nominated J. Huebner. The vote to elect J. Huebner Chair of the Board of Selectmen was unanimous. M. Case nominated S. Lennon as Clerk. J. Huebner seconded and the vote to elect S. Lennon was unanimous.
4. J. Huebner read the draft Monthly Selectmen's Letter and made a motion that the Board approve it. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.
5. New members of the Board of Health Vera Cormier and Barbara Keyes told the Selectmen that they had attended training in Great Barrington for Temporary Food Event inspection. They gave copies of their certificates to the Administrative Assistant for filing.
6. J. Huebner noted that he had received email from our Health Agent Scott Krzanik informing him that the Town can go ahead with issuing Disposal System Construction Permits for Pavia and Goucher. He reported following up on the garbage complaint about the property at 427 Frost Road. He spoke with the current occupant and did not observe any garbage on the property or up in the woods. He did not find any public health issue there. J. Huebner will review the original complaint email and respond to the residents who submitted it.

7. D. Fish told the Board that he plans to grade all of the dirt roads shortly. He had received notification of the May 27 bid opening for the re-construction of Washington Mountain Road (WMR). The Board suggested he attend the opening if possible. He also mentioned that DCR will be inspecting the dikes on the reservoir in October Mt. State Forest. He reported that a resident's property on Upper Valley Road is flooded again as a result of Beaver activity. He will contact CSX about this. J. Huebner told him that if he gets no response from CSX to let him know and he will call Maurice O'Connell.
8. J. Huebner reported that he had received a response from Peter Niles at DOT about Summit Hill Bridge. The letter was somewhat vague but did indicate that they are submitting a design for the repairs. He should have those plans on May 22nd.
9. Sean Connors asked the Board to consider the viability if the Eden Glen Dam before making any decision about whether to remove it. He had received from Phil Clark the Executive Summary of a report on state dams generally, written by a consulting firm, Industrial Economics Incorporated (IEI). The Board assured S. Connors that no decision had been made nor would it be until the condition of the Eden Glen dam had been established by P. Clark.
10. J. Huebner reported that Phil Clark formally notified the Board that he has resigned from the Conservation Commission. He will be available to consult to the Commission. Eyal Shapira has joined the Conservation Commission as a member. Michelle Lampro will contact Mr. Shapira.
11. The Board agreed to spend \$50.00 to continue the Town's membership in the Mass. Association of Health Boards (MAHB).
12. The Board reminded D. Fish to talk with Mr. Senecal, Hinsdale Highway Superintendent, who had sent a letter complaining about Washington's

work on Plunkett Reservoir Road. They also asked him to order and install a “No Dumping” sign at the turn-off on the Dalton slope of WMR.

13. J. Huebner asked S. Lennon to draft a letter to Sheriff Bowler requesting Community Corrections Labor for several Washington projects including painting Old Town Hall and doing some work at the Town Park. Kent asked if any of this work will be done before end of year. S. Lennon thought that it would be completed around June 30.

14. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received a letter from Fiber Connect offering internet connection services. He said that he will read the long letter and report back on this company offering an alternative to WiredWest. K. Lew asked for a copy of the letter to do due diligence from the Finance Committee perspective. J. Huebner stressed that we are not blindly spending the Town’s money on broadband but do consider alternative approaches and that we are under no obligation to spend the money approved by the bonding vote at the ATM. Mike Case told the Board that Steve Nelson, our WiredWest delegate, had appeared before the CBRSD school committee and presented the case for broadband access for our students. The school committee voted to pass the resolution in support of Wired West.

15. J. Huebner said that the Town had received a letter from Peter Blake, Town Veterans’ Agent, informing them that he would not seek re-appointment to that position. He urged the Town to consider joining the Northampton Regional Veterans’ support agency. M. Case added that the City of Pittsfield is planning to organize a similar regional support agency for veterans and that it might make more sense for us to wait and join that group. J. Huebner will investigate the advantages of joining the Northampton agency. We have to make a decision by July 1.

16. P. Clark told the Board that he still hasn’t received the additional information he requested from Holden Engineering on Cross Place Road

bridge. J. Huebner told him that there will be a capital assets meeting on June 15 and that he would like to have his updated highway maintenance plan by that time. P. Clark agreed. He added that the survey on Eden Glen has been ordered. Glenn Grogan submitted to the Board letters from Locke Lord LLP stating that they are ready to approve the issue by Washington of bonds in the amount of \$567,000 for culvert repair and \$ 30,000 for culvert repair engineering services. The Town is to reduce these borrowings by the amount of any FEMA or other grants awarded to the Town.

17.J. Huebner commented briefly on the following items:

- a. No news on Bucksteep, the Borgnis landfill or on the cemetery 5 acres Pittsfield owes us. Bucksteep did file their 501-c3 documents in time to retain their non-profit status.
- b. Berkshire Regional Planning will have a meeting of the Commission on Thursday, May 2.
- c. There will be a meeting of Small Town Administrators on June 11 in Boyleston, MA. J. Huebner may attend.
- d. We received several documents from Berkshire County Head Start: Executive Board Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2015, Executive Director's Report for May 2015, Agenda for Executive Board Meeting, May 20 2015.
- e. The Board received a resume from Wayne A. Dixon of Pittsfield presenting his qualifications as a hands-on property maintenance provider. The Board will keep this resume on file.
- f. MassDCR and MEMA sent a letter describing the potential availability of grant money for damage caused by the January 2015 Severe Winter Storm. There will be a briefing on this opportunity at the Lanesborough Fire House On June 3 from 10:00 – 12:00. P. Clark will look into this.
- g. Wastequip of New Lebanon, NY sent a quotation of \$7380.69 for a new roof for the paper container at the Transfer Station.

- h. J. Huebner asked the Administrative Assistants to file a flash drive containing all the pipeline information accumulated to date.
- i. J. Nelson was asked by the Board to look into installing a 911 only phone in the Town Hall kitchen.
- j. The Berkshire County Board of Health is looking for coordinators for their program to prevent kids from getting tobacco.
- k. Chief Breen to visit and warn granite companies shipping stone over WMR of the dangers of high speed and high weight.
- l. D. Fish wants all new curb cuts inspected by building inspector. Many have not filed applications with the highway department.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

