

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – June 15, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Attending for the Board was J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, M. Case made a motion to accept the minutes from June 8, 2015. J. Huebner seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously. T. Drugmand asked for a copy of the minutes. J. Huebner gave her a copy that he had.
3. J. Huebner motioned to approve the June 29, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant. M. Case seconded and the warrant was approved by unanimous vote.
4. P. Blake thanked the Board for letting him serve as Veterans Officer for the past two years. P. Blake then informed the Board that the \$300,000.00 grant applied for by Tricia Bueblia was not approved therefore the Berkshires will not receive \$100,000.00 for outreach programs. The VSOs in the area will need to work smarter/harder. The VSO in many towns are resigning. Things are in a state of transition. Great Barrington, Northampton and Pittsfield are bidding to host a district location. J. Huebner reported that he has been in touch with Northampton and M. Case has been contact with Pittsfield. P. Blake replied that if the Town does not go with Northampton, the VSO would need to be certified as Northampton is a bona fide district. There is a class for certification ending Thursday. The deadline for certification is October 2016. There was discussion holding office hours within the Town, hours by appointment. P. Blake stated that appointment with the VSO secretary would be a violation of CMR 108 which contains requirements for each town. Towns must have a VSO, provide them with an office, computer and software in the Town. There was a discussion on district VSO requirements with M. Case stating that the Pittsfield Mayor supports becoming a district. P. Blake reminded the Board that that process would take time referencing the State Veteran Affairs Office; how to setup a district. If Pittsfield becomes a district, it would pay the fee. D. Spencer asked the Board what is the interim plan. J. Huebner asked P. Blake to stay on top of the situation. V. Cormeir mentioned that she has had conversations with the VSO of Peru without luck. All agreed that the Town's needs to see a contract before a decision can be made.
5. J. Huebner motioned that the Selectmen purchase flowers for J. Nelson. S. Lennon seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous vote. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to arrange flower delivery and to charge the Selectmen expense account.
6. T. Johnson reported that the wooden fence by the Little Red School culvert has been repaired and that there the sink hole needs to be addressed. J. Huebner asked T. Johnson to please pass that information on the D. Fish, who will be return to work this week.
7. J. Huebner informed the Board that there was nothing new to report on Bucksteep.
8. J. Huebner reported that M. Provencher said that currently there are no funds available to investigate the old landfill but that there will be more funding offered in the future. There was discussion on the

right to go onto private property to investigate and access an area through a follow up on pollutions found in adjacent areas.

9. V. Breen reported that the Special Town Meeting Warrant had been posted. He was unable to put up a new flag up outside the Town Hall because the rope needs to be replaced. There was discussion on how to replace the rope. J. Huebner asked T. Johnson to pass on the Board's request to replace the rope to D. Fish.
10. J. Huebner reported on the Prevention Wellness Trust Grant that will allow all public health organizations in Berkshire County to create birth to death wellness programs. North Adams has very effective community program for communication and many civic functions. J. Huebner hoped that Washington's COA can get involved in the program.
11. J. Huebner reported on a letter received from MassFiscal.org in which the body of letter appears to offer assistance in getting money but a search of their website reveals that it is a special interest group consisting of Republican supporters. M. Case added that it is a private organization that is politically motivated, a tea party type group.
12. S. Lennon reported that there was a big party at the dam with over 100 kids having a bonfire. The State Police broke it up and expressed concerned regarding continued activity. There was discussion on consulting Town counsel, the Town's liability and on how to keep kids out. M. Case suggested installing a gate adding that the gate should block vehicle access not foot traffic. V. Breen stated that when Pittsfield wanted to install a gate they were asked by the show the town where they were thinking of putting it, but a gate was installed without checking so the Board asked V. Breen to get it removed. There was additional discussion on what can be done. M. Case commented that if the State Police know about it, the word will get out which usually prevents any activity in that area. The Board asked V. Breen to contact the State Police, that maybe they will stop check out the area on Friday and Saturday.
13. At 7:31 PM J. Huebner motioned to adjourn the Selectmen meeting to begin the Capital Asset meeting. M. Case seconded and the meeting was adjourned.
14. The Selectboard meeting resumed at 8:48 PM.
15. The Board reviewed V. Breen and D. Parnell.
16. M. Case stated that the Town is going to have a lot road work this summer and he would like to see residents of the town working traffic control. There was discussion on the using residents with training from the Chief, the law and administrative responsibilities. V. Breen will check with city of Pittsfield and a few companies on hiring special officers. There was additional discussion on using residents with all in agreement that there would be an announcement in tracks, that a list would be created on interested residents then reviewed by M. Case, S. Lennon and V. Breen.

17. D. Parnell informed the Board that VADAR system is working, Cash was balance last year, that some accounts have been balanced already, the books could be closed before the tax meeting. There was discussion on a new contract with D. Parnell reporting that it would be for three years with each year costing \$1,000.00 less that perhaps last year payment could be considered retroactive renewal. There was further discussion without decision on the Town's accounting options.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Hostetter