

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – August 24, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 17, 2015. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the September Selectmen's Monthly Letter for the Tracks. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. J. Hostetter told the Board that she is up to date on the Annual Reports. Departmental information has started coming in for 2015. She has worked on the Town web site and will continue to do so including placing any employment application forms on the site. She emailed all Town employees and requested their office hours for publication in Tracks. These schedules will also be placed on the web site. She will renew our web address and hosting agreement this week. J. Hostetter told the Board that she sent the information on Mr. Shapira's well. She got the report from S. Krzanik, our health agent. J. Huebner will write agendas for the next Board of Health meetings. She also reported that she has been investigating our options for document shredding. Many Town departments have told her they need to clear out old documents legally and safely by shredding. We can either use the services of a shredding company which will send a truck to shred on site or we can purchase a more powerful shredder to use in-house. She will continue to gather information on our options for the Board.
5. D. Fish reported that complaints have been received about the Pumpkin Walk bonfire from some residents. These will have to be considered in the planning for this Fall's signature event.

6. Sean Connors asked the Board if any decision had been made on the Eden Glen dam. J. Hostetter told him that none had been made nor would a final decision be made except by a vote of the Town at the Fall Special Town Meeting (STM). Currently P. Clark is working to develop estimates on the cost to repair/maintain the dam or remove it. Either way the Town will pay a considerable sum.

7. J. Nelson explained to the Board that she had taken a pink US Postal Service Delivery Notice left in the Town Hall mailbox to the Becket Post Office last week expecting to pick up the Certified Letter referenced on the Notice. The Notice indicated that the Certified mail was from Holden Engineering, the company hired to rebuild the Cross Place Road bridge. To her dismay the Postal Clerk told her that the letter was no longer there. It had been bundled with many other pieces of certified mail and sent on to Hartford by a summer temporary postal worker the day before. That worker had not checked any of the return dates before making this mistake. Our letter would reach Holden before the Clerk could retrieve it from Hartford.

J. Nelson called Holden immediately to alert them to this situation. Fortunately the contents of the missing certified letter were copies rather than originals of the Cross Place abutters' Certified Mail Receipts for their Notification under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act of the work being done by Holden. Holden scanned the originals and emailed them to the Town for our records. Holden continues to work with Phil Clark on plans for construction and believes that the company will meet our deadline of completion before winter. The public hearing has been scheduled by the Conservation Commission for Thursday September 3 at 6:00 at Town Hall.

8. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson for an update on the Town Hall emergency telephone. She told the Board that she had spoken to both Crocker and Verizon. She had rough quotes on the cost of installation and service from each provider. According to the Verizon contact she had spoken to, our

one time only, upfront costs would be about \$285.00. That covers an inexpensive phone set and wiring. Annual costs for the one phone with local calling and including tax would be about \$480.00. An earlier estimate from Crocker indicated one time upfront costs of \$ 380.00 for phone set, programming and wiring. Crocker annual costs were estimated at about \$108.00 with no tax charged.

9. J. Huebner reported that he will continue to try to reach Matt Kerwood of Berkshire Group Purchasing to discuss the Town's participation in this year's bulk purchase program. D. Fish had tried to register our purchase requirement but no one replied to him until after the order deadline had passed. D. Fish is working on getting variances for heavy trucks which must cross the Summit Hill bridge. He is also working on our salt supply for winter. We do still have some discounted coverage for salt. He told J. Huebner that he probably would wait until next year to work on Blotz Road even if we could get back on the Group Purchase list. The road condition is not critical and there might not be enough time for the paving to cure before the hard freeze. There was no news about Washington Mountain Road.
10. J. Huebner noted that Ralph Simmons was honored at last Friday's COA dinner by being presented with the Town Cane as the oldest current resident. He is 92 years old. To qualify for this honor the individual has to be physically residing in Town. Ralph's family was in attendance. Many pictures were taken, some of which will appear in the upcoming Tracks. Chief Breen will see that Ralph's name is added to the plaque which is displayed in the hall along with the cane.
11. At 7:30pm the Assessors joined the meeting and the annual Classification Hearing was held as scheduled. K. Avelle passed out a report listing the financial details and summarized them briefly. She noted that the Washington Fiscal Year 2016 Total Taxable Value is \$79, 790, 690. The average single family residential home value in Fiscal Year 2016 is \$229,486.

This year's new growth added \$1,106,405 in assessed value to the tax base. The Fiscal Year 2016 Levy is \$1,095,526.17. The tax rate is \$13.73 per \$1,000 of valuation for all classes of property for fiscal year 2016. D. Spencer said that this represents a 1.6% increase in the tax rate. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the rate. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous. J. Huebner signed the assessors' Classification Report and concluded the Classification hearing.

12. Chief Breen reported to the Board that he had upgraded the safety markings on the school bus. It is now even more clearly visible. He had parked it close to the Town Hall door for public inspection.

13. J. Huebner commented on the followings briefly:

- a. BRPC sent a list of helpful web sites on the pipeline. It will be posted in the hallway.
- b. The Board received a Memorandum for the Community Sanitation Program from the state with information about "Recreational Camps for Children". As we have none, no action was taken.
- c. The Board received from the state Department of Environmental Protection an Administrative Consent Order also sent to Thomas Delaney at Summit Hill Campground. The Consent Order addresses violations of the Total Coliform Rule within the public water supply serving Summit Hill Campground.
- d. Received from the Lenox ZBA a decision on a Special Permit to convert 44 affordable assisted living units at the Cameron House into 38 affordable independent living apartments for persons 55 years of age or older. It will be posted in the Hallway.
- e. Received a reminder about the HCOG bulk electricity purchase program for which the Town signed up last year. Ken Lew to follow up on this as our optional coverage should start before this winter.
- f. J. Huebner said that there will be no meeting on Labor Day, September 7.

14. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. S. Lennon seconded that motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson