

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – September 28, 2025

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7 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 September 21, 2015. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. M. Case made a motion to accept the monthly Selectmen's Letter for publication in the October issue of Tracks. J. Huebner seconded the motion and the letter was accepted unanimously.
4. M. Case informed the Board that Balthazar Construction had requested permission to go inside the Old South Center School (Little Red Schoolhouse) to inspect the structure. The Schoolhouse sits next to a stream which will be routed through a new larger culvert when work begins on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). He referred them to Ed Bond for the key.
5. D. Spencer asked the Board about the status of the Borgnis deed. J. Huebner said that all we can do is attach liens. New people have moved into that property and D. Spencer had spoken to them. The new owner is Dominik Sinopoli. Mr. Sinopoli joined the meeting later on and was welcomed by the Board. He confirmed that his negotiation for the purchase was long and complex. Both water and land testing were required. He did not buy the landfill parcel, which was separated from the original deal.
6. J. Huebner reminded Shaun Lennon to follow up on the Board's letter to Sheriff Bowler requesting assistance from the work crew on the Old Town Hall windows and painting. The Town has had no reply from his office.

7. Mary Jarvie of the Assessor's Office showed the Board maps they had requested of the North Lake (Virginia Lake Estates) area. J. Huebner asked her for an electronic copy of the maps. Mary Jarvie said that she would email that to him.
8. Craig Willis of White Wolf told the Board that he would like to bid on the Town's winter sand purchase. He has screened sand @ \$ 352 for 21 sq. yards. He knew that we had been left off the county bulk purchasing list for the winter. J. Huebner said the Highway Department applied for the bulk purchase but that a new employee based in North Adams had not received our request. C. Willis warned the Board that sand was getting very scarce already. J. Huebner told him that the Town would welcome his bid. C. Willis also asked if our Health Agent S. Krzanik had received the paperwork for the well and septic system White Wolf will begin working on on Lovers' Lane. Vera told him it should be OK if Scott has the paperwork.
9. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson if Crocker Communications had found a way to reduce the estimate for a new phone installation in the Town Hall kitchen. J. Nelson reported that she had not yet heard from them on this, but would follow up.
10. Chief Breen told the Board that he had received the list of equipment available to the Town through the annual state emergency readiness grant. Our award is for \$2,200. J. Huebner told him that his preference would be to order items which contributed to equipping the auditorium as a shelter. However, after reviewing the list he determined that none of the items were appropriate for this purpose. He did consider air conditioners for the auditorium in case of power loss in very hot weather, but they were too expensive and would greatly increase our electric costs as the generator would run non-stop.

After the Board members discussed our options, J. Huebner said that emergency medical supplies and a paper shredder would be our choice

from the grant list. He asked Chief Breen if there might be a way to get the shredder and a one-time visit from a shredder truck to take care of Town Hall's overflow of expired old documents. Chief Breen indicated that there might be some flexibility that we could take advantage of. Chief Breen also reported that, as requested, he asked Balthazar Construction if they could install a better quality, friendlier "Welcome to Washington" sign when they finished reconstructing WMR. He was told that the State does not do this, but that D. Fish could order such a sign for \$30- \$40 from a catalog.

11. Planning Board Chair Marilyn Wiley joined the meeting to discuss any changes needed in the Business By-law that will be voted on at the October 26 Special Town Meeting (STM). J. Huebner told her that he had summarized the by-law in the October Selectmen's letter writing that " the Town will require everyone in Town with a home-based business to register and pay a \$10 annual fee. This will insure that all business activity conforms to our zoning and that the character of the Town is preserved". M. Wiley told the Board that we should add that the Town will submit this by-law to the state Attorney General for approval. The Board agreed with her and thanked her for bringing this amendment to their attention.

12. J. Huebner asked Phil Clark for an update on the Holden project. He believed that October was the deadline for preparing the bid package. P. Clark said that there was no bid package yet. He added that contractors are busy now and asked if we should try to get an open ended bid which we could then follow up with construction in the spring/summer. He believes that the current Cross Place Road temporary bridge will be sound through the winter. By November 1 it is too late to replace the bridge this year. J. Huebner said that \$12,500 has been paid to Holden already. We have also recently received an invoice for \$4000 from them. We have not paid this. He stressed how much the Board would like to get the bid package done by Holden. He asked P. Clark to push for that. P. Clark mentioned that we do not have DOT approval yet on the plans. The Board's position will be that if we get a completed bid package we will not sue for the \$12,500. P. Clark

said that we will also not spend the engineering funds we have set aside for the project

13. J. Huebner reported that we have received estimates from P. Clark on the costs of repairing the dam at Eden Glen vs. removing it. The cost to repair it is estimated at \$111,000 or \$93,600 to repair it. The repair estimate does not include the ongoing costs of maintaining the dam. Residents will be asked to vote on their preference at the October 26 STM.
14. The Board decided not to include a vote on the disposition of the North Lake parcels on the STM ballot as we need more information on our options. In addition to the Business by-law and the Dam decision, the only other STM topic will be whether or not to continue as a member of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Pipeline Working Group since we are no longer in the pipeline's path.
15. P. Clark reported filing the quarterly report for Eden Glen. He also had a conversation with Ray Bolduc about the large propane tank farm on the Hinsdale/Washington line.
16. M. Case and J. Huebner will attend the legislative breakfast in Dalton on Friday. M. Case reported no news on the Veterans' memorial or on a plan to service our current veterans.
17. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7: 58pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson