

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – October 5, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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 28. M. Case seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. K. Lew told the Board that he had responded to HCOG regarding the status of their electricity aggregation program. Lee Frankl confirmed that the program for which the Town applied would not be offered and that they were terminating our agreement with them. J. Huebner asked K. Lew to see that we are provided with a copy of the terminated contract. We do have hard copy of the emails from HCOG.
4. J. Huebner reported that a representative from the Becket solar aggregation group called him. J. Huebner invited him to address the Board about this potential program.
5. J. Hostetter gave the Board a draft of the October 26, 2015 Special Town Meeting warrant. The Board reviewed and amended the draft to further clarify the question posed in Article 2. The amended article reads: “To see if the Town wants to restore the Eden Glen Dam or to see if the Town wants to remove the dam.” J. Huebner made a motion to accept the warrant as amended. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to accept was unanimous. After the Board had signed the warrant, Chief Breen left the meeting to post it in the three designated locations around Town. The locations are the salt shed outside the transfer station, the Old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road and on the message board outside Town Hall on Summit Hill Road. Additionally, the warrant will be posted on the Town’s website.

6. Ed Bond mentioned that there had been damage to the bell tower window. He will take care of this.
7. J. Huebner reported that the Town had received a letter from the Governor of the Commonwealth notifying us that Washington has been awarded a Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant of \$500. He thanked us for our “commitment to reducing waste and increasing recycling for the benefit of our communities and the environment”. The grant will be awarded by the DEP. Instructions and paperwork for claiming our award will be given to Michelle Lampro.
8. J. Huebner mentioned that he had received an invitation from BRPC to attend an October 19 dinner and presentation on the status of the medical marijuana initiative in the county.
9. He also sent a survey request to our emergency management team and appointed M. Case to be temporary Chair of the Select Board during his absence on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
10. Additionally he mentioned receiving a mosquito control plan for the Town. The Board of Health will review this plan. There is a new person in charge of the control effort and J. Huebner wondered about the value he brings to the program.
11. The Board received a large envelope from Holden Engineering. J. Huebner opened the envelope. Phil Clark agreed to review the documents. At first glance, he told the Board that it did not appear to contain the signed and stamped bid package we had asked for. He agreed to read through the entire package. J. Huebner said that the Town has spent about \$12,000 so far on Holden’s work. An invoice for another \$4000 is unpaid. He added that we have some decisions to make regarding Holden. The first is where and when in the process do we sever our relationship with them. The

second question is do we want to seek recovery of what we have paid them to date. P. Clark said that he will continue to try to get a bid package from them. He did request electronic documents from them and has received a few. MASSDot is still waiting to submit. The Army Corps has not yet given approval. Only our Conservation Commission has.

12.J. Huebner announced that Adam Southard has achieved the Road Scholar designation from UMASS after successfully completing the course there. All three of our Highway Department crew members are now Road Scholars.

13.Chief Breen described for the Board a recent experience with the school bus. All of the oil leaked out of the vehicle through the oil filter. The cause of the leak was identified and the leak fixed permanently. The cost to the Town for taxi and towing is \$199.33. Chief Breen learned that the bus does not have an extended warranty. The cruiser is already beyond the warranty period.

Chief Breen also told the Board that he had gotten a call from John Price, head of District 1 MASSDot. Mr. Price was concerned about the Old South School house on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). Inspecting the culvert there he noticed that cement and asphalt had been poured under rock at the site. P. Clark said that this had been done to hold everything in place near the stream. He said that it would be best if we just left it in place for now as that culvert will be rebuilt as part of the WMR reconstruction. J. Huebner said to put sand and salt on the agenda for the 19<sup>th</sup>. Chief Breen told the Board that he had spoken to Iron Mountain Storage about their shredding service. When he has more information he will discuss with the Board the possibility of using our \$2200 emergency equipment grant to cover some of this shredding expense.

14.M. Case, our interim Veterans' Agent, told the Board that he would like to attend VA training in Leominster for 3 days. K. Lew added that we do have budget for that. M. Case also said that he reached out to Hinsdale and that

they will help with our veterans until we decide to join either the regional administration in Northampton or to wait for the Pittsfield office to open. Chief Breen added that he had met with Peter Blake today on the subject of the veterans' memorial. Both Mike Case and J. Huebner said that they think the best location for the memorial is the Old Town Hall. This decision on the memorial location was supposed to have been made by a committee of interested citizens, but the committee was never formed. Eyal Shapira of Pugzee's Farm has offered a generous contribution toward the cost of the memorial. J. Huebner made a motion to send M. Case to Veterans' Agent school. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. M. Case abstained.

15. J. Huebner reported that he attended the Legislative Breakfast last week in Dalton. The chief topics of conversation there were the problems many towns are having with their roads and bridges. Our challenges with Cross Place Road, Washington Mountain Road and the Summit Hill bridge are well known. There was discussion among the legislators of building a stockpile of temporary bridges for local use. Monterey is renting a bridge now for \$1800. More Chapter money is needed to deal with issues like this. There was also discussion of school aggregation. No one voiced an objection to this concept. Nobody brought up the pipeline. Lee is trying to put its own gas tax in place. J. Huebner said he might be in favor of a county-wide gas tax to increase our ability to finance infrastructure projects.

16. J. Huebner said that he received a copy of the latest BRPC report on FERC, the federal agency in charge of the pipeline development process. A FERC representative had attended the most recent pipeline working group meeting. Trish Drugmand volunteered to read the BRPC report. J. Nelson volunteered to read the BRPC survey results on Berkshire County Aging Adults and Young Adults. Kent Lew added that he will meet with Brian Domina of BRPC on our financial planning project.

- 17.J. Huebner reminded P. Clark and D. Fish that they owe the Board their road maintenance plan by the end of November. He said also that the DCR has told the Town that we can keep the Bailey bridge if we want to.
- 18.J. Huebner noted that we received a notice from the Pittsfield Community Development Board that a special permit has been granted to Moldmaster Engineering for the demolition and construction of various sections of their building at 187 Newell St. in Pittsfield.
  
- 19. J.Hostetter told the Board that she had met with Jeff Sawtelle of the COA to plan a series of holiday dinners.
  
- 20. There will be no Select Board meeting next Monday as that is the Columbus Day holiday.
  
- 21.J. Huebner will be out of town for the next two weeks.
  
- 22.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson