

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – October 19, 2015

1. M. Case called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were M. Case and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance M. Case made a motion to accept the minutes from October 5, 2015. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Ed bond addressed the Board on the subject of the upcoming Pumpkin Walk. He mentioned that there had been some controversy about the bonfire. That has been settled as Craig Willis, along with a number of volunteers, has agreed to take care of the fire. Last year a number of stumps were included in the blaze. As these burn long and slowly the Becket Fire department was forced to stay very late at the Town Park and objected strongly to this practice. We have assured them that no stumps will be included in this year's blaze. Chief Breen will manage the traffic detail as usual. J. Hostetter added that she has posted an announcement about the Pumpkin Walk on the Town web site. All of the required permits have been issued.

On the subject of repairs at the Chapel, E. Bond presented the Board with a bill for \$940.00 for labor and materials to maintain the exterior of the building. He has hired outside help and has done some pointing himself. The Board reviewed the invoice. M. Case made a motion that the Board accept the bill as presented. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous.

4. J. Hostetter reported that she continues the Town document scanning work. That is an ongoing project. She corrected an omission from our Curb Cut Package. She also completed the task of renewing the Town's web address and registration.

5. S. Lennon mentioned that Williams College again has some furniture in good condition to donate to local towns. J. Hostetter told him that Town Hall could use some items. S. Lennon will make arrangements to view the available items and J. Hostetter will ask D. Fish to organize a crew to transport it.
6. Chief Breen is working on submitting the Town's request regarding the emergency equipment grant.
7. J. Hostetter is assisting Chief Breen with gathering information on document shredding options for Town Hall departments. She suggested that we might open the shredding to senior residents through the COA if a one day shredding truck is used.
8. K. Lew told the Board that he had contacted HCOG and requested a copy of our canceled contract for their now defunct electricity aggregation program.
9. J. Nelson told the Board that the only way to reduce the cost of adding another phone to our system is by finding our own contractor to do the wiring. At the Board's suggestion she will contact J. LaPier for a quote.
10. E. Bond reported that he had accompanied the Balthazar crew when they inspected the Little Red School House stone foundation. A large culvert at that location is to be replaced. Balthazar is the contractor who will reconstruct Washington Mountain Road (WMR). They were unable to give him any idea about when the culvert work there would begin. When the work does start, however, they did tell him that a detour will be set up to close that stretch of WMR temporarily.

11. M. Case told the Board that he will attend the Veterans' Agent training at Leominster next week and submitted his application for that course for the record.
12. There will be a meeting of Westfield Wild and Scenic in Huntington on October 28 in the Town Hall at 7:00pm.
13. M. Case read a letter from Representative Peter Kocot regarding the Town financing schedule for Wired West. K. Lew was familiar with the letter. The Select Board agreed to send a letter to State Rep. Peter Kocot supporting a proposal by WiredWest for legislation which would allow towns to finance their share of the WiredWest regional fiber network by rolling over one-year notes for 20 years.
14. Glenn Grogan told the Board that we received a refund in the amount of \$410 from the USDA in Hadley . When we paid off the garage loan in September we had been overcharged on the interest by this amount.
15. M. Case reported that we had received from the Mass Cultural Council a contract and scope of services for the Town that covers the transfer of FY 2016 Local Cultural Council funds from the state. J. Huebner will sign this document next week and submit it to the state.
16. He also reported that the Town has received from Verizon a petition for Verizon Job # 4A0C1VU on Upper Valley Road. The job appears to involve the installation of conduit in that area. A public hearing will take place and notice will be given to abutters.
17. Mark Levernoch asked the Board if there was any information on when the state would close the Summit Hill Bridge. M. Case told him that there have been no plans submitted for the work yet. We don't expect more information until spring. We have been given a waiver for our plow trucks to use the bridge through the winter.

18. There was brief discussion of the announcement in the Berkshire Eagle of the auction of state owned land at 509 Summit Hill Road. M. Jarvie had told M. Case that the auction signs went up and now have been taken down. The outcome of any auction was not clear. The Board believed that this was the “community college” parcel of 32 acres and will follow up to get details.

19. S. Lennon asked E. Bond for an estimate on the cost of finishing off the painting inside Town Hall. He can request more assistance from the Sheriff’s Office to get the job finished.

20. Chief Breen told the Board that he had spoken to the Project Director for the WRM work. He was told that they would rebuild two culverts before winter. These would be the two biggest culverts. One of these will be the culvert adjacent to the Little Red School House. They will put up hay bales and silt fences shortly. They will put down temporary black top over the culvert work so that WMR will not have to be closed this winter. He was told that Balthazar has 1.5 years to finish the project. He reminded the Board that the WMR reconstruction work is all paid for by the federal government.

21. M. Case made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

J. Nelson