

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – November 2, 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 of October 26, 2015. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner reported that he had sent an email to Holden Engineering stating that it is now too late to start the Cross Place Road bridge project. After Holden assured the Town on several occasions that the work would be completed by now, no work has been done. With the assistance of Town Counsel, the Town will seek to recover monies we have paid to Holden. If Holden submits the complete bid package we have requested by the end of November we will reflect this in the amount of restitution we will seek.
4. There was a brief discussion about which Town board has final authority to permit or deny the building of undesirable housing or facilities in Town. The Buccaneer case in Lenox established a town's right to exercise this control. The question was whether the Planning Board or the ZBA would act in such a situation.
5. J. Huebner asked K. Lew about our status with HCOG and their now defunct electricity purchase aggregation program. K. Lew said that we have been released from our Agreement with HCOG. Apparently HCOG misled potential subscribers about having a fully functioning program. The DPU has shut the program down.
6. J. Huebner reported that Becket is considering building a community solar system which would bring low cost electricity to all homes in Becket and

Washington. We would partner in the project. This project is in a very early stage and he will keep the Town posted on developments. There will be a brief presentation on this project next Monday at the Select Board meeting.

7. The Board signed a Special Election Warrant for November 14th. The only question on the ballot is whether or not the Town wants to exclude borrowing for broadband from Proposition 2.5.
8. J. Huebner asked D. Fish about the status of the road maintenance plan. D. Fish told the Board that he has the plan ready and is waiting for P. Clark to supply pricing.
9. The Board discussed a recent meeting hosted by Smitty Pignatelli on the state's Community Compact program. This promotes best practices among municipalities to improve town functioning. Regionalization and shared services are among these practices. The Southern Berkshires has started to put some of these practices in place with varied success. Smitty urged all towns to sign on to the Compact. M. Case objected because the documentation is all written in terms of Southern Berkshires and needs to be modified to correctly reflect the location of the signing town. M. Case said that this Compact should be county-wide and not on a town by town basis to truly achieve significant benefits. He will contact the Governor for more details.
10. J. Huebner and M. Case will attend the Seven Town Advisory Committee.
11. The schedule for the Matter of Balance classes to be held at Town Hall, sponsored by Berkshire Medical Center, has been posted and was in this month's Tracks.
12. M. Case told the Board that he passed the final exam and has successfully completed his Veterans Officer training. He mentioned that Phil Collins

from Hinsdale has agreed to manage the Washington veterans' services for now .

13. Ed Bond reported to the Board that this year's Pumpkin Walk was the best since John Keator's death. The many volunteers were well organized, understood what they had to do and did it. He was grateful that the Highway Department was able to get some park preparation work done in the morning. The Walk took in \$1500 in donations. Ed will write up the details for the Tracks. Everyone involved did more than was required. M. Case said that he hoped that we will be able to have the Hoot again next fall. It has raised a total of \$40,000 for the district schools since it began.

14. Treasurer Glenn Grogan told the Board that he received a call today from a local subcontractor who had done some site work for Holden . He had not been paid by them yet and asked the Town to pay. G. Grogan declined and directed him back to Holden.

15. J. Huebner commented on the good condition of the office furniture donated by Williams College for use in Town Hall. Shaun Lennon made a motion to thank the College for their generosity. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. J. Huebner will write the letter. J. Hostetter will direct the placement of the furniture.

16. Chief Breen opened discussion about our Emergency Management Team. He, Steve Deloye, Paul Mikaniewicz, Mike Case and Shaun Lennon are on the team. Currently we need to complete the emergency needs form for MEMA. Paul is supposed to do this as fire chief and command manager. MEMA can come to Town Hall and explain to us what is expected of our team. The Board said they would welcome their visit and their guidance. MEMA will explain the many responsibilities we have. We should have an action plan. The team needs to have a training course too. There will be 2 emergency management meetings on Nov 12 and 13 in Lenox. There will be

a meeting in December also in Lenox about winter weather hazards. J. Huebner will talk with MEMA about setting up a meeting at Town Hall.

17.J. Huebner commented briefly on the following items:

- a. The Town received a check for \$25.00 from Mark Levernoch for a plumbing permit for Mr. Horton.
- b. J. Huebner signed the contract for the Cultural Council.
- c. The COA Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Friday November 20th at Town Hall.
- d. We received notice that it is time to nominate someone as the Commonwealth's outstanding Tree warden.
- e. We received an Insurance audit notice from MIAA. That document was given to G. Grogan.
- f. Berkshire Public Health Alliance (BPHA) will raise its hourly rates. We pay an annual fee instead. BPHA is considering online permitting.
- g. Jeff Sawtelle will research the Boston Cane and talk to the Board about it.
- h. J. Hostetter will research getting a shredder truck here to shred out-dated documents for the Town Hall. She is investigating using a grant to offer senior residents a chance to use the shredder too. She will speak to Iron Mountain about the shredding.
- i. The Sheriff's work crew will paint the Old Town Hall this spring.
- j. The Business Bylaw will be modified and voted on again.
- k. We still need quotes on cleaning out the Eden Glen pond and installing the gate in the dam. The Sherrif's work crew cannot assist with this work as hazardous material may be involved. No work will happen until next spring.
- l. The Town received \$100.00 from the Arroyos for their well drilling permit.
- m. The Board asked Ken Walls to reconsider his resignation from the Conservation Commission.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

J. Nelson