

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – November 23, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were Jim Huebner, Shaun Lennon and Mike Case.
2. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes from November 16, 2015. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner read the November monthly Selectmen's Letter for the Tracks and made a motion to approve it. M. Case seconded and the letter was approved unanimously with one amendment. J. Huebner will send the amended document on to L. Guthrie for publication.
4. J. Huebner mentioned that the Select Board had received an invitation to the MIIA Annual Luncheon to be held in Boston on January 23rd. None of the Board can attend.
5. During discussion of the possible Town Hall emergency phone, it came to light that only one resident has requested this service. J. Huebner said that the most inexpensive option would cost \$151 for the instrument, including programming of the handset, and \$100 for annual phone service. The Finance Committee conferred and told the Board that they were against the expenditure. J. Huebner said that he will table this question for further input. He will discuss it from an emergency standpoint with Chief Breen.
6. Jodi Hostetter had emailed to the Board the results of her research on the cost of document shredding from Iron Mountain of Springfield. J. Huebner asked her to canvass Town Hall and determine just how much material we actually have to shred before we go ahead with this process.
7. J. Huebner reported that he had conferred with Counsel on the issue of retirement health benefits for the Highway Department. The Town would

have to vote on this policy as it would be very costly. It must be put on the Annual Town Meeting ballot. J. Huebner referred it to the Finance Committee for further research.

8. J. Huebner announced that there will be a public hearing with DOT at 6:00 pm at Town Hall on Monday, December 14. We will review the design plans developed by DOT for the Summit Hill Road bridge. The design plans are currently at 25%.
9. P. Clark updated the Board on the status of the Dam. He is in process of completing the forms requested by DOT and the Army Corps. They will have to inspect the site and our plans. The National Park Service will also be involved in the inspection. P. Clark expects that we will begin construction in May of 2016. K. Lew asked P. Clark to keep the Finance Committee informed of any cost increases that may develop in the course of planning the project. No work has been done on the dam yet. There was discussion of how much debris has to be removed from the impoundment and how that should be done. The Conservation Commission has to be informed and must approve of the cleanup plan. P. Clark has an Emergency Certificate to give to M. Lampro. P. Clark mentioned that we did not get the Mass Works grant for the Middlefield bridge repair work. He said that we have to refine our cost estimates.
10. J. Huebner asked P. Clark about the value of the engineering information sent to us by Holden. P. Clark told the Board that the documents are deficient. They fall short of being an implementable bid package. He will keep trying to get a useful plan. The current material leaves a lot of details open to interpretation.
11. Regarding the Transfer Station metal bins, D. Fish told the Board that he has some old I-beams to add to the bin to bring up the weight. Our scrap processing provider, George Apkin & Sons of Adams has informed us that right now scrap steel prices have dropped so low that, depending on the

weight in the container and its location, the cost of transporting some loads will be higher than the value of the materials hauled. D. Fish said that it will take 3 or 4 months to complete his clean-up of the Highway Department yard. J. Huebner told him to wait on this work until spring. D. Fish gave the settlement report from Apkin to the Board for their files.

12. J. Huebner had written a letter to Joann Moran, Furniture Procurement Specialist at Williams College thanking her on behalf of all our residents for her generosity in providing the excellent furniture, part of the College's surplus, for our use at Town Hall. The Board reviewed the letter. J. Huebner made a motion to send the letter. S. Lennon seconded and the vote was unanimous. The entire Board signed the letter. Shaun Lennon, Select Board Clerk and employee of Williams College, had made arrangements to procure the furniture. The Highway Crew moved it down to us in Washington. J. Hostetter supervised placement of the pieces.

13. Chief Breen will make arrangements for MEMA to attend a meeting of the Select Board. He will coordinate with J. Huebner on the date. Chief Breen told the Board that he would very much like to have a Narcan kit on hand if needed to save the life of an opioid user during an overdose situation. The Board informed him that this kit had been offered at no charge to the Town. Chief will pick the kit up. There is a training opportunity in the use of the kit and on other aspects of drug dangers for first responders to be held at BRPC in Pittsfield on December 16 at 2:00 pm. Chief Breen informed the Board that his computer is down. He needs to get someone from the state computer team to take care of it.

14. Kent Lew told the Board that the Finance Committee's work on the planning process is almost done. He needs still some culvert information.

15. S. Nelson updated the Select Board on the Wired West delegates' meeting held last Saturday in Tolland. Twenty seven of the twenty nine member towns were represented. The agenda focused on a detailed review of the

draft Operating Agreement developed by the Wired West Governance Committee and the organization's counsel, with active input from the member Towns' delegates. By the end of the meeting a few revisions had been identified. These will be reviewed by counsel and the Operating Agreement will be essentially completed. There was a unanimous vote to issue another draft to town officials. S. Nelson commented on the dedication of the delegates and the true regional cooperation that made the Agreement possible. He expects that the Agreement should be in place in the December time frame. There will shortly be a post card mailing customized for each town, to keep resident sign-ups growing.

16. The Conservation Commission received a lengthy letter from DOT on the Washington Mountain Road (WMR) culverts. The Commission will review the letter. He noted that there has still been no work on the road. The few signs blown down have been put back up.
17. The Town was approached by a solar company which wanted permission to sell their services door-to-door. J. Huebner will tell them no. Our participation in the potential Becket Community Solar effort is another situation entirely. We await an update from them.
18. M. Case said that there has been no progress on the Veterans' memorial or on the 5 cemetery acres from Pittsfield.
19. J. Huebner reported that the Seven Town Regional School Committee Meeting was very productive with an update on the County Education Task Force which should result in a stronger county-wide school system. M. Case is on the Task Force. Our number one consideration is the quality of the education we offer our children.
20. J. Huebner said that the town received a nice thank you note from Ben Downing for hosting the Coffee and Conversation meeting at Town Hall last

week. He will be having an open house next month and requests donations of unwrapped Toys for Tots.

21. At 7:50 pm J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson