

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – November 30, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and S. Lennon.
2. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from November 23, 2015. M. Case seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. V. Cormier told the Board that she had difficulty opening the last 2 weeks' minutes on the Town website. J. Huebner told her that J. Hostetter will check the site and address any problem to ensure that the information is available to all.
4. J. Huebner reported that he had signed a Letter of Intent to join the Berkshire Public Health Alliance/BRPC Online Permitting and Inspection Program. An FDA grant covers the first five years of the program. We can withdraw at any point.
5. J. Huebner will attend meetings tomorrow of the Pipeline Group at BRPC. M. Case told the Board that the transportation meeting which he attended (also at BRPC) was very informative. He learned that \$2,200,000 had been appropriated for rebuilding the Summit Hill bridge. The construction plan is 25% finished. There will be a public meeting on December 14. Time and meeting place information will be forthcoming shortly. He noted that some heavy equipment had already shown up on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). He was told that the reconstruction of the road will start shortly with work on the two largest culverts. The first is located next to the Old South Center School (our little red schoolhouse) and the second is located further north near Lillian Fox's home. There will also be some drainage work done on WMR between the Fish's property and the Old Town Hall. No other reconstruction work will take place before

spring, 2016. Official detours will be set up on Frost Road and McEnery road. The contractor will put up detour signage to direct traffic. D.Fish will show the contractor where ice dams form on WMR each winter so that they can address that problem as soon as possible. He told the Board that there will be a kick-off meeting this Wednesday at the field office on WMR.

6. M. Case told the Board that there will be Complete Streets training at the Hotel on North in Pittsfield on December 11 from 1:00 to 3:00. MassDOT has requested an authority attend from each town. J. Huebner suggested that could be D. Fish. We will receive email on this program shortly. Issues like the potential need for bike lanes will be addressed at the session.
7. This Thursday, December 3 at 8:00 am there will be a BCBOHA Breakfast meeting at Pittsfield Country Club. Our Board of Health, J. Huebner, V. Cormier and Jan Huebner will attend
8. There is no news on Veterans' Services Management or on the cemetery land from Pittsfield.
9. Regarding the potential community solar project which Becket may undertake, D. Parnell said we will need to upgrade the Town's power supply lines to a possible source in Pittsfield. J. Huebner wondered about the feasibility of sourcing the power closer to home.
10. J. Huebner will ask P. Clark to evaluate the Holden "construction package" himself and not to involve Town Counsel. P. Clark is also evaluating the Middlefield Road Bridge Deck Replacement Project repairs as we did not receive a MassWorks Infrastructure grant to cover a portion of our costs..

11. J. Huebner had received a copy of a letter from the Colraine Selectmen to Sen. Stanley Rosenberg listing their questions about Wired West and the coop's progress toward delivery of broadband services to rural towns. J. Huebner will pass the letter on to our Wired West delegate, Steve Nelson, for analysis and will put the issue on the agenda for next week.

12. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to schedule a MEMA meeting at Town Hall in early January. Chief Breen reported that he has been working on acquiring an appropriate stone for the new veterans' memorial at Old Town Hall. Peter Blake is working on the plaque for the stone. The Board asked Chief Breen to speak with Ayal Shapira about funding for the memorial. We need to make a specific request in order to move the project forward. Sean Connors offered stone from his property.

13. K. Lew, Finance Committee Chair, told the Board that the Committee will be ready to present their work on a plan for the Town's financial future in two weeks.

14. J. Huebner told Chief Breen that many large trucks have been using Blotz Road lately. They appear to be ignoring the posted weight limit signs. He asked Chief Breen to enforce the weight limits by observing the trucks, making note of company names and contacting the owners about the violations. Chief Breen agreed to do so.

15. J. Huebner briefly reviewed the following items:
 - a. No activity was reported at Bucksteep by Chief Breen or neighbors.
 - b. The Board had issued an emergency beaver permit requested by the USDA.

- c. D. Fish will try to get better quality "Welcome to Washington" signs for WMR. He will see what the cost would be.
- d. D. Fish asked about the Highway Department retirement benefits request. K. Lew said that it will be discussed next week and may be on the annual meeting warrant.
- e. Chief Breen and J. Huebner discussed the need for a Town Hall emergency phone and decided against it.
- f. J. Hostetter estimated that we have 5 containers full of old documents to go to the shredder truck. Cost would be \$250.00. This will come out of the Selectmen's budget. M. Case asked if there was a way for residents to use the service. K. Lew will look into cost and funding for that.
- g. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to be sure our septic pumpers are certified by the state. The BOH had voted that they must be certified to work in the Town next year. There is a Certification course given in March. The cost is \$150.
- h. The Board received a pumping record for Ernest Lampron's residence.
- i. Notice of a public hearing on 12/30 at 7pm was received from Lee regarding application from Lee Bank for a Special Zoning Permit .
- j. The Board received the 2016 contract for our health agent.
- k. The Board received notice of the District Local Technical Assistance grant for 2016. Priority is given to regionalization and planning for housing and growth.
- l. Eversource sent the Town its annual vegetation management notice.
- m. J. Hostetter said she had received a well permit application for 72 Lower Valley Road. J. Nelson reported giving the \$250 check and required paperwork to the Treasurer.

16. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson