

Meeting of the Washington Select Board - 12/14/15

1. Following the public hearing this evening held at Town Hall by MassDOT to review the 25% design phase in their plan to reconstruct the superstructure of the Summit Hill bridge, J. Huebner called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:40 pm. 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 December 7, 2015. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. Regarding the just-concluded Summit Hill bridge meeting, M. Case commented that he thought we might get some plowing help from Hinsdale on the section of road which will be part of the detour for our residents offered by DOT. D. Fish added that Hinsdale has done some work to improve the road at the point where Washington, Hinsdale and Peru meet. J. Huebner said that he will draft a letter to DOT summarizing the Town's reaction to the information given about the bridge reconstruction.
4. J. Huebner made a motion that the Board sign a letter to the Treasurer of WiredWest requesting reimbursement for the \$ 788.81 cost of the debt exclusion vote held in Town Hall on 11/14/15. M. Case seconded and the vote to sign was unanimous. Reimbursement will be drawn from our portion of the MBI Broadband Planning Assistance Grant which we assigned to WiredWest on our behalf.
5. J. Huebner reported receipt of a strong letter of support from the Becket Town Administrator and the entire Becket Select Board for the WiredWest cooperative and its "shared network" concept for bringing broadband internet to rural towns in western Mass. MBI, the state broadband agency, opposes this approach and insists that each town should build and operate its own network. J. Huebner said that this week he will draft a letter from

our Board to MBI, copying our delegation and Eric Nakajima Director of MBI, voicing our support for the WiredWest approach. The Board will vote on adopting and sending the letter next Monday.

6. J. Huebner will speak with Town Counsel about the situation with Holden and its failure to do the work to replace the Cross Place Road bridge. A long list of deficiencies in their plans has been cited by the state. P. Clark will put these in writing. The question which remains is: Do we go after Holden to try to recover some of the money we have paid them and incur legal costs by so doing or should we cut our loses and move on?
7. P. Clark said that he has received a Certificate to open the Eden Glen Dam lower outlet. Our road crew will do this work. The wetlands limit around the impoundment has been defined and work is on schedule. Regarding the Middlefield Road bridge, he is hoping to get a copy of old plans for the abutments so that he can develop a better cost estimate. Steve Southard , who built that project, told him that the work was done in 1986 and that DOT might still have plans in their files. P. Clark will contact DOT and ask them to do a search. He also asked the Administrative Assistants to search through old files in Town Hall.
8. Chief Breen told the Board that he had a busy week. He attended the MEMA meeting and asked MEMA to attend a Select Board meeting to brief us on emergency management procedures. They agreed to do so on a Monday in early January. He also spoke with Eyal Shapira of Pugsey's Farm about the Veterans' Memorial. Eyal had generously offered to provide some funding for that project last spring. In discussion, he told Chief Breen that he would donate \$1000 and possibly a bit more for the Memorial. He also said that he wants to be kept in the loop about progress on the project and was interested in getting involved in choosing the stone. Chief Breen also visited Jim Dalton, now in command of the Cheshire state police barracks. He asked Lieutenant Dalton for more help in patrolling Washington Mountain Road. The Lieutenant told him that he is short of

men and funds . If the situation gets really out of hand, he offered to put a detail in the area for \$60.00 per hour. Additionally Chief Breen visited the home at the crest of Frost Road and gave the family final notice that he must contact Child Services because, after several warnings to the parents, the children are still playing on Frost Road in the middle of traffic. He is required to take this action as he is the Town's 52A mandatory reporter. Also the Becket Washington School had called him asking him to take action to protect the children. Finally Chief Breen spent some time on Blotz Road watching for trucks which were in violation of the posted weight limits. He observed Maxymilian, and Hinsdale Timbers both in violation. He will contact the companies and warn them.

9. D. Fish and J. Huebner attended a Complete Streets meeting in Pittsfield on Friday, but learned nothing really relevant to a rural town like ours.
10. D. Parnell said there was no news on the potential community solar project with Becket except that our property at the rear of the town park is not a good site for a solar farm. He also told the Board that he is changing procedures in order to streamline the accounting process. From now on all utility bills, Verizon, Crocker and HL propane will come directly to him. He will give D. Fish a quarterly re-cap sheet for his utilities and phone.
11. M. Case said that he is a certified Veterans' Agent now, having passed the state exam.
12. J. Huebner said that he had received the maps of the expanded Conte preservation area from M. Jarvie. He also said that he had received a Meeting Notice for Westfield Wild and Scenic for a December 17 gathering in Worthington Town Hall.
13. He reported that the Board had received a check for \$257.75 from Waste Management as a Transfer Station rebate. Another check was received from DCR for \$1500.57 . This is a 2015 Forest Products Trust Fund payment

as a result of timber sales from the state forest. The checks were given to G. Grogan, Town Treasurer, for deposit and processing.

14. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson