

Selectmen Meeting of the Washington Select Board – January 11, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, Mike Case and S. Lennon .
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. M. Case made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 as written. J. Huebner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. J. Huebner provided J. Hostetter with December 21, 2015 meeting minutes approved at the January 4' 2016 meeting.
4. The Selectmen welcomed Michelle Raymer, J. Hostetter and Purr McEwan of the Becket Washington Community Partnership (BWCP) who met with the Board to introduce the newly formed partnership whose members represent the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Art Center, Becket Federated Church, Mullen House, Becket Washington School PTO, Washington Cultural Council and the Becket Fire Department. The partnership was formed to provide collaborative assistance to each member group by generating ideas, planning, volunteering, participating and fundraising. The Partnership wanted to meet with the Selectmen, tell them what the BWCP is about, what we're doing, seek the Boards ideas on contributing or if they see a potential risk and to seek support and general input on the current project. The BWCP first project is to re-invent the Becket Fair which has served as the annual fund raising event for many of the members. Planning has begun and since all of the non-profits service both towns it makes sense to collaborate. This year fair has been renamed the Becket Washington Fair, it is scheduled for July 9th, family friendly kid fun attractions have been added from 10:00 to 4:00 at little or no cost. There will be a focus on local vendors, highlighting artisans like the Hartwood School, Guthrie Center, Kushi Institute and Jacobs Pillow. The Fire Department will host a Beer Garden in the evening with live entertainment and dancing. J. Hostetter added that there are many more great fundraising ideas without ownership. The Partnership would like to extend those opportunities to the Washington non-profits and invite Washington businesses to participate as well. P. McEwan reported that the BWCP applied for and received a budget form the Washington Cultural Council, Becket Cultural Council and two thousand dollars from Berkshire Taconic which will be used for advertising, music,

children's programming. The Partnership is excited but fears not getting enough participation from folks living in Becket and Washington and getting enough volunteers to work all the anticipated activities and events. P. McEwan asked the Board if they had any ideas for generating support. J. Huebner suggested publishing in the Tracks, including information within the monthly Selectboard letter. After discussion on the Track's submission and publishing J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to have both M. Raimer and P. McEwan added to the Tracks mailing list. There was a discussion on the location and access. The fair will remain in the traditional North Becket location expanding out to the elementary school and pavilion by the Fire Department with the potential of adding additional sites with events. Closing any part of Route 8 has not yet been determined. There was a discussion on volunteering needs, the PTO and the Hilltown Hoot with M. Case mentioning that Hoot had volunteering issues and the Guthrie's would continue with the Hoot if there was more volunteers and J. Huebner adding that perhaps the BWCP could assist with that event. P. McEwan informed the Board that BWCP planned on approaching the Guthries regarding the Hilltown Hoot and participating in the fair. P. McEwan and M. Raimer added that part of the money raised by the fair's new events and activities will benefit the PTO as that organization funds were dramatically reduced with the absence of the Hilltown Hoot. After further discussion it was decided that the BWCP would write up what they would like the Board to include in the February monthly letter. Ads should be placed in the Tracks as the fair date gets closer. The Board thanked M. Raimer and P. McEwan for attending.

5. Chief Breen asked the Board to approve the installation of motion sensor lighting around the exterior of the Town Hall to improve security, safety and money. After discussion the Board asked Chief Breen to prepare an estimate.
6. J. Huebner reported that Peter Blake is very pleased that the Town received a memorial rock, that engraving the stone would be expensive that perhaps using brass plaques. M. Case added that etching covers over with moss and bronze can be re-bronzed later.
7. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen for an update on the Emergency Management Shelter training needs survey and also the Incident Command Training Course on February 9th emails. Chief Breen asked J. Huebner to re-send both emails.

8. J. Huebner opened up discussion on the email sent out by Massachusetts Broadband containing the RFP for the roll out acknowledging that it is their function but there seems to be some consternation about what is and is not include in the RFP and there is a three week comment period to which S. Nelson has a written response for the Boards approval. Steve Nelson reported on the RFP informing the Board that there are things in the RFP that are being influenced by outside factors. WiredWest appointed a negotiating team to meet with Mass Broadband to negotiate issues arising from the December 1st bombshell correspondence. The negotiations have started, they are being conducted in a constructive way and progress is being made but because it is in the negotiation stage he could not provide details. S. Nelson also reported that in the Executive Board Meeting held in December, MBI made their presentations. S. Nelson, J. Drawe and folks from other towns attended making the point that MBI did not listen to or hear WiredWest's point of view. The Board of Directors instructed the MBI staff to work with WiredWest, resolve what can be resolved and what cannot be resolved will go back to the MBI Board of Directors in mid to late February. J. Huebner confirmed that it is an active Board overseeing the process. S. Nelson added that there are Board members who specifically said that they would look into the ownership issue again, which is the main stumbling block. There was discussion on ownership with WiredWest having ownership rather than individual towns. S. Nelson also reported that the comment period expires of Friday with many towns may not be able to comment because the RFP was sent out on Christmas Eve and the comment period was over the holidays when Selectmen were not meeting. Cummington's Selectmen are not meeting until Thursday so they will not be able to provide comments. S. Nelson provided the Board with Washington's response to the RFP. The Selectmen read the letter. J. Huebner asked if the content of the letter was addressing specifics in the RFP to which S. Nelson replied yes. The Board asked if a request for a comment period extension be added to the response. S. Nelson did not think it would help as it was asked and denied already. J. Huebner asked if WiredWest should be included in the RFP to participate in the construction. S. Nelson replied that it the original intent was to have WiredWest approve the RFP, approve the contractors and approve change orders but MBI does not want the towns to organize, have too much power looking over their shoulders. WiredWest will continue to fight for it but the topic is something that has to be worked on outside of the RFP in the terms of how WiredWest and MBI are going to work together, part of the negotiations. What is included in the response is that the network should be the most cost effective, the most cost efficient and the most stable which ends up being a regional network and

not individual. S. Nelson stated that everyone wants to move forward to approve the RFP. S. Nelson believes that the RFP in practical terms will not be approved until after the February Executive Committee Meeting. S. Nelson also reported that the WiredWest Executive Committee met and Kimberly Longley, who was appointed the head of the negotiating team. She was the President of the Creamery when it converted from a private company to a cooperative. They also met with our legislative delegation, who basically agreed that the towns should have the right to choose which way they want to go. S. Nelson recommended that if things do not get better with MBI that the issue should be pushed up to the Governor Baker's Office as he has been supportive of regional efforts, community compact and town making decisions. J. Huebner agreed. There was discussion on funding, construction costs, the ten percent of the fifty million appropriations that MBI took for "administrative" purposes, which has not been explained no matter how many times they have been asked to explain. S. Nelson ended with reporting that one aspect of the negotiations that is going well that the financial people of MTC are going line by line so the end of the process should have an approved financial plan. J. Huebner motioned to sign the letter provided by S. Nelson. M. Case seconded the motion which passed unanimously. S. Nelson will copy the signed letter for the Town's records and mail it certified tomorrow. There was a discussion on the Department of Community Development.

9. The Selectmen asked Superintendent Fish to clarify why there was winter overtime was charged for the week of December 20th. J. Huebner asked D. Fish if he has a copy of the Financial Sustainability study created by the BRPC. One of the areas where our cost has increased above revenue is highway cost. He is not saying that there is anything wrong with that be it does create some sensitivity. M. Case reminded D. Fish that when someone comes to the Board the Board is obligated to inquire.
10. J. Huebner reported that nothing new will happen to Washington Mountain Road until the spring. D. Fish reported that there are three spots where a lot of water is running on the road. Near the School House, above Frost Road and on Middlefield Road where a driveway that was cut in without a culvert pipe. J. Huebner asked if the town knew that the driveway was being cut it. D. Fish replied that the paperwork was filed after the driveway was installed. J. Huebner stated that if the money is being spent in that area, that the resident should be fined. After further discussion the Board asked D. Fish to contact Balthazar and DOT.

11. J. Huebner reported that P. Clark informed the Board that what Holden provided cannot be used for bidding the job. Discussion on what action to take was tabled until P. Clark is present.
12. J. Hostetter reported that Conflict of Interest Summary receipt acknowledgements are coming in, that she will contact J. Swatelle regarding a comparable shredder at a better price.
13. J. Huebner open discussion on the letter drafted to Nat Karns of BRPC regarding the great job that Brian Domina did in working with the Finance Committee on the Financial Sustainability Report. After a brief discussion J. Huebner motioned to sign and send the letter. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
14. J. Huebner read a section of the MassDOT notice of Public Meeting scheduled in Lenox at the District 1 Highway Headquarters on January 28th, 6:30 PM for input on the state of good repairs and tolls on the Western Massachusetts Turnpike. Review the report at massdot.state.ma.us/highway/DoingBusinessWithUs/Manuals/PublicationsForms.aspx if interested. Comments must be submitted in writing. Notice will be posted.
15. J. Huebner acknowledged receipt of the notice regarding the DOT Regulatory Review Listing Session on Monday, February first at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst adding that this also requires comments in writing. Notice will be posted.
16. J. Huebner announced that the Town has signed up for interveners' status on the pipeline through the Town's participation with BRPC.
17. M. Case reported that he is a certified Veterans Agent that paperwork for the Town's Veteran has been filed and is waiting a reply. There was discussion without decision on having Pittsfield take over the position.
18. M. Case reported that he has not met with new Mayor yet regarding the cemetery land.
19. J. Huebner reported that he will attend the MPO meeting on January 26th.
20. J. Huebner reported that there will not be a meeting on Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King's day, that he will not be present for the February 8th

meeting and that there is no meeting on February 15th in observance of President's day.

21. The Board asked D. Fish to review the State Bridge Inspection Report for Lower Valley Depot Brook, which reports that it is good repair.
22. M. Case asked if we have received a response regarding the Summit Hill Road Bridge. J. Huebner replied no.
23. J. Huebner announced that the MIIA Annual Business meeting will be held in Boston on Saturday, January 23rd. No one from the Board will attend.
24. J. Huebner entered into the record an invitation to attend the MA Municipal Tax Lien Investment Company. No one from the Board will attend.
25. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of the MIIA annual nomination papers for Director of MIIA.
26. J. Huebner entered into the record the MIIA Trade Show registration forms.
27. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of the BRTA Power of Collaboration Bus with Us Commercial announcing a partnership with Williams College.
28. Board signed permits for Installers permits for Duquette, White Wolf and Delaney, Septic Haulers permits for Sanitary Septic Service and White Wolf. The Board also signed three outdoor concert permits, one car show permit, permit to operate a swimming pool, camp site permit, common victuallers permit for Summit Hill Campground. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of \$200.00 for Septic Haulers permits.
29. J. Hostetter informed J. Huebner that S. Kraznik is no longer working for Berkshire Public Health Alliance. His key has been returned.
30. J. Huebner entered into the record a letter from BRPC to the Board regarding Board of Health on-line permitting system. J. Huebner is attending a meeting this on Wednesday.

31. J. Huebner informed the Board that on December 22, 2015 both he and Karyn Polito signed the Commonwealth Community Compact. There is a meeting on February 4th in Great Barrington, which is the kick off for this. The Town was asked to provide areas where collaboration would be useful. J. Huebner will talk about WiredWest, public health and the municipal accounting project.
32. J. Huebner motioned to suspend the meeting at 8:10 PM. M. Case seconded and the motion passed.
33. J. Huebner motioned to resume the meeting at 8:17 PM. M. Case seconded and the motion passed.
34. J. Huebner informed the Finance Committee that he will suggest collaboration on Health Care, Wiredwest and the municipal accounting project at the Community Compact meeting then asked for other potential areas for collaboration. J. Huebner also asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be the Town's representative. There was discussion on having a DOT standard plan for a culvert and bridge, funding for plans, shared engineering services, ways to get around some of the cost. M. Burke sited Monterrey who used chapter money and tax money rather than grant money to install a bridge with over all savings. No one else volunteered so J. Huebner will attend the February 4th kick-off in Great Barrington.
35. The Finance Committee discussed with the Board non-budgeted increases in insurance due to two equipment purchases by the Highway Department and that D. Fish needs to make sure there is budgeted money to cover the insurance before purchasing equipment. D. Spencer informed the Board that next year the insurance will be broken out into insurance types. J. Huebner informed the Finance Committee that D. Fish via text message during the meeting had provided details of the OT, which was due to high winds and tree removal. K. Lew asked if the d time be book to winter roads overtime or is that account for snow and ice. The Board stated that it is winter and it was a weather event so it should be applied to the winter roads overtime account.
36. The Board recapped the WiredWest discussion that occurred earlier, J. Hostetter provided the member of the Finance Committee a copy of the Town's response letter that was approved earlier.

37. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted, Jodi Hostetter