

## **Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – March 14, 2016**

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, M. Case made a motion that the Board accept the minutes from March 7, 2016. J. Huebner seconded and the motion was accepted unanimously.
3. M. Case confirmed for the Board that work on Washington Mountain Road (WMR) should begin this week.
4. J. Huebner plans to speak with Town Counsel this week about our position with regard to using information developed by Holden as we move ahead with completing the Cross Place Road project with another contractor.
5. J. Huebner reported receiving a joint press release from the Commonwealth and MBI which describes their ongoing effort to “more deeply understand the broadband expansion strategies being proposed...” for western Massachusetts. They expect to develop a strategic plan for MBI. No mention is made of a timeline for this work, though they expect to research “best practices from the Commonwealth and internationally”. J. Huebner commented that he was concerned that the funding approved by the legislature for building the broadband network is being drained by this research.
6. J. Huebner also reported that the Town had received from the Hampshire Council of Governments and the Hampshire County Select Boards’ Association notice of a discussion on town meeting strategies. This event is open to the public and will be held on March 17 at 6:30 pm at the South Hadley Town Hall. J. Huebner asked D. Fish if he had inspected possible damage to the Cross Place Bailey bridge. He reported that he done the inspection and that the damage was superficial.

7. P. Clark told the Board that he had filed paperwork to get all the necessary permits in place to begin his work on the Cross Place culvert. There will be inspections from many organizations including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Conservation Commission, DCR and Westfield Wild & Scenic. Trees will have to be taken down to clear the way for building a temporary road for residents during construction. Due to the presence of the endangered long-eared bat in that area we can't cut trees between April 15 and August 1. P. Clark will get pricing for the tree work.
8. Regarding Eden Glen, P. Clark showed the Board a set of drawings which are 99% complete. The culvert will have an open bottom. The road will be widened to 24 feet and will be higher than it is currently. There will be no through access on Frost Road during construction. Schulze Road and Lovers Lane will be the detour route. There can be no work done in the water at Eden Glen during trout season. He is working on gathering the approvals needed to begin construction. J. Huebner reminded him to keep finances for the 2 jobs separate.
9. The Board received a press release on a "Western MA Forest Project" for joint preservation efforts to be undertaken by a number of the leading conservation groups. M. Case, Western Regional Director of the DCR, took the press release to review.
10. M. Case checked on the grading repairs to their driveway promised to the couple on WMR who had complained of icing. The work has not been done yet, but Balthazar is aware of the situation and will correct it. D. Fish and M. Case checked with Balthazar on their plan for stockpiling stone and approved it. D. Fish asked for the milling for the Town's use. The material is owned by the Town. D. Fish recommended using it the forest to improve West Branch Road. West Branch has little traffic and the paving should last for some time. We couldn't afford it otherwise. Balthazar told them that stone crushing will be up high on the parking lot. Trish Drugmond asked

that Watson Road also be considered for some of the milling work. It was agreed that that should be looked at as well as the back parking lot at Town Hall.

11. On the subject of the Summit Hill Bridge reconstruction J. Huebner said that he had written a strongly worded reply to DOT's response to our suggestions and objections to their plans for the bridge. He agreed to accept Middlefield Road in Hinsdale and E. Washington Road as detour access if they are made passable before construction starts. He suggested that Bullard's Crossing would be a much shorter detour and urged DOT to do a "detailed cross-benefit on this solution". He urged also that all measures that can be taken to minimize the closure of the bridge be taken. Construction will not be done until the summer months of 2017. He asked again that DOT take a serious look at adding a second lane to the new bridge and to prove to us why they can't do it. He made a motion to approve the letter. M. Case seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The Select Board members all signed the letter. In addition to our delegation, copies were sent to Tracy Osimboni at DOT – Boston, Mark Devylder at DOT District one, to Summit Hill Campground and to Superintendent Fish.

12. Ed Bond told the Board that the circuit breaker which controls the master switch for the nighttime outdoor lighting at Town Hall is not working. He will get this fixed. He does not expect to need any funds for maintenance/repairs at the Chapel this year. He inspected and saw no carpenter ants. Mark Roos took care of the moldings. The Chapel is in decent shape.

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

- a. We will not be applying for a hazmat grant application this year.
- b. There is no news on the cemetery land or on the Veterans' Memorial.
- c. Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Town elections will be on Saturday May 21.

- d. J. Huebner will send an email reply to Ed Srednicki of the Dept. Of Labor Relations.
- e. J. Huebner encouraged Vera Cormier to take advantage of BOH – related courses. She said she will do so.

14.J. Huebner made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel reasons at 7:03pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to begin the session was unanimous. D. Fish was asked to remain and the room was cleared.

15.The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 pm and the regular Selectmen’s Meeting resumed.

16.Victor Breen told the Board that MEMA will not come in to meet with them. He is trying to get more grant money from them.

17.The FinComm joined the meeting briefly to give the Board their working budget spreadsheet. Chapter 90 funding will be discussed next week. The re-surfacing and re-grading of Frost Road should not come out of CH. 90. Jim will talk to D. Fish about this. There will be less debt to service as the Town Garage and the cruiser are now paid off. Dick Spencer asked if the Town is selling off the old tractor.

18.At 8:37 pm J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson