

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – March 21, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 6:55 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 to accept the minutes from March 14, 2016. J. Huebner seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. Ed Bond told the Board that he is ready to spend \$8540 on materials for repairs to the Old Town Hall. He has \$13,000 left in the maintenance account and would like to do the work before 6/30. In response to a question from S. Lennon about work on the Chapel Ed said that once the glass repair is finished the Lexan panels will come down for good. The Chapel should be in good shape for the next 5 years. The Board approved all of the work described and signed off on his paperwork.
4. The Board asked T. Johnson if the Highway Department had decided to sell the old tractor or not. He told the Board that they were getting quotes but that no decision has been made yet.
5. J. Huebner said that he had talked with Town Counsel, Jeremia Pollard, about the question raised by Kent Lew concerning the Town's right to use some of the information developed by Holden for the Cross Place bridge project. Counsel advised that we are entitled to use that information.
6. J. Huebner spoke with D. Fish about plans for spending \$75,000 on the Frost Road pavement rehab. D. Fish told him that they were taking that project off the list. So that money will not be hitting our Chapter 90 funding this year.

7. M. Case had examined the Cross Place Bridge and found no major structural damage there. This was prompted by receipt of a crash report from the Cheshire State Police.
8. J. Huebner reported a short conversation with Tracy Osimboni, Project Manager for the Summit Hill Bridge work. She had not yet seen his most recent, strongly worded follow-up letter to Patricia Leavenworth at DOT Boston. He emailed her a copy of that letter and she wanted to have a chance to think it over before talking further.
9. J. Huebner reported receiving a \$172,800 quote from Phil Clark for design engineering work on Eden Glen. We will probably have to go out to bid on this. Also on Eden Glen, he heard from Mark Devylder at DOT that Phil's plans are lacking in some specs. Additionally J. Huebner heard from Mr. Inganni of Middlefield Road that the planned work on the bridge abutments there may not be needed.
10. Two representatives of Baltazar Construction were in attendance to answer the Board's and residents' questions about work on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). They said that the flooding problem reported by residents living near the Little Red Schoolhouse had been corrected. On the question of the disposition of the millings from the road, Kyle Murphy of Baltazar said that these will be re-applied right back on the road as the construction progresses. At the end of the job whatever is left will be turned over to the Town. Right now they do not know how much will be available or what kind of millings they will be.
11. J. Hueber asked Mr. Murphy and his colleague to tell the Board and attending residents about the excavation they did Friday, March 18th at the Old Common on WMR. Baltazar said that they had contacted D. Fish about clearing an area there to use for storing 2,000 tons of gravel and crushed stone. D. Fish didn't see a problem with using that location. Contrary to the Board's expectation, Baltazar started immediately to dig. The work was

about 90% done before they were told to stop. Baltazar estimates that they had dug up a half acre about one foot deep 60 yards back from the road. They did not consider the historical ground. J. Huebner said that the excavation site was well behind the area where the old meeting house was believed to have stood. Kyle Murphy said that they will restore the site completely. A bucket loader will be left there to move the gravel. The gravel and topsoil have been prevented from mixing. A rubber membrane has been put down to receive the gravel and crushed stone. No trucks will be parked there. The site will be completely restored in about eight weeks. The topsoil will be seeded. They have put up barriers to catch run-off in the meantime.

J. Huebner said that an expert in historic preservation who had been consulted advised that since no historic buildings have been destroyed or damaged, no material will be removed from the site and the site will be restored to its original condition, we were justified in proceeding with our road. Sean Connors suggested that we look at whether we need a better defined parking lot. That location is used by hikers and snowmobilers parking their trucks. Baltazar told Carol Lew that she and Kent will have clear access to their driveway and home. Mike Case added that if we wish to plant some trees on the Old Common site, he has access to plenty of them in his position as Western Regional Director of DCR. Both chestnut and elm trees may be available.

D. Weissbrod told the Board that the Historical Committee is interested in putting up signage to clearly mark the area as the "Upper Historic District" in order to prevent future damage like the situation we are discussing. They would also want to mark the registered area toward the Becket end of WMR as the "Lower Historic District". The Board strongly supported this idea. Carol Lew, whose home abuts the site, said that although she is saddened by this incident she doesn't want to stop the work. J. Huebner made a motion to sign a waiver for Baltazar's use of up to three quarters of

an acre for 10 weeks starting on March 21 and then to be restored as the Town directs. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

12. Steve Nelson, our Delegate to WiredWest, updated the Board on efforts being made to work with MBI to get past the current state of prolonged “pause”. Boards of Selectmen in WiredWest member towns will get regular emailed reports on work being done. This month’s WiredWest delegates’ meeting will be held starting at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 26 at Becket Town Hall. Several member towns have moved away from the original plan of a shared network managed by the Wired West cooperative. At this meeting delegates will work to define options for moving forward and choose to best to present to the state. A number of alternative strategies have been proposed. This is a public meeting.

13. A public meeting requested by Verizon on the installation of conduit and pole work on Upper Valley Road will be held before the Selectmen’s meeting at 6:30 on Monday, March 28 at Town Hall. Abutters’ cards have been sent.

14. Ed Bond told the Board that repairs to the outdoor lighting at Torn hall will be finished tomorrow.

15. The following topics were considered briefly by the Board:

- a. K. Lew raised the question of possibly needing a Special Town Meeting (STM) to deal with a few issues such as the area map project.
- b. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance will meet on Thursday. J. Huebner will attend and make sure the Town receives our current invoice.
- c. He thanked K. Lew and the Finance Committee for completing the estimated budget.

- d. J. Huebner said that he had responded to the 2017 US Census Bureau Census of Governments and also to the Mass. Labor Relations inquiry on our collective bargaining status.
- e. The Town received the proposed CBRSD 2017 Final Maintenance and Operating Budget.
- f. Received a letter proposal from Horizon Consulting Services describing the work they will do under the MEMA/FEMA grant award for a total of \$172,800.
- g. Eversource will hold a dinner meeting for public officials on April 14 from 4:30 to 7:30 in Pittsfield. Chief Breen may attend.
- h. A letter for Town funeral directors and embalmers from the state was received.
- i. In response to R. Grillon's request for a copy of last weeks' Executive Session minutes J. Huebner explained that such sessions concern personnel issues, are confidential and the minutes are sealed. They are not required to be released.

16. At 7:45 J. Huebner took a roll call vote of the Board to go into Executive Session. As all were in favor, the room was emptied. Tom Johnson was asked to remain.

17. At 8:15 the Board came out of executive session and the regular Selectmen's meeting resumed.

18. Chief Breen gave the Board an update on his pursuit of grants. He confirmed that the grant for \$2022 from MEMA is through processing and will be spent on safety equipment for the Highway Department. He is working on a similar grant for \$7050 and is waiting for paperwork to complete the application. He reported that he had had a problem recently with the school bus. One student was in the school bus at that time. The student was not injured. A large branch became stuck under the vehicle, making a very loud noise. Also one of the tires on the cruiser came apart. He will be buying 4 new tires.

19.J. Huebner asked J. Nelson, Alternate Administrative Assistant, to research the cost of the various projects proposed and being conducted for the Town by P. Clark.

20.At 8:32 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