

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – March 28, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from March 21, 2016. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to approve and sign the April monthly Selectmen's Letter for Tracks. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. J. Huebner asked T. Johnson to speak with the Finance Committee about Highway Department issues including where we are against the past winter roads budget. He explained that Tom Johnson will be the new Highway Department Superintendent. Dave Fish will become a member of the Highway Crew and will be limited to non-driving work such as machinery maintenance and mowing. His lack of a CDL will not become an issue until Fall. Meanwhile the Town has the advantage of his years of experience. Salaries will be adjusted effective immediately.
5. D. Spencer told J. Huebner that he had sent him a summary document explaining potential changes to the CBRSD regional school agreement depending on what path Cummington chooses to follow.

D. Spencer also mentioned that he and Kent Lew had attended the WiredWest Board Meeting last Saturday in Becket. As proposed in the operating Agreement last year, WiredWest will be converted to an LLC with shared ownership by the towns proportional to each town's commitment to the project. There was discussion of how to get past the lengthy "Pause" in broadband progress imposed by MBI. Washington Delegate Steve Nelson's proposed plan for each town to own its local fiber

and consumer premises equipment beyond the “hut” electronics, offered a practical solution to some towns’s and MBI’s objections to WiredWest’s cooperative ownership structure. This plan, designated “A2” was enthusiastically endorsed by the meeting. It was decided by the delegates to suspend all negotiations with MBI until they were ready to deal responsibly. J. Huebner added that he has never seen a worse example of bureaucratic strangulation than MBI’s refusal to move ahead with WiredWest’s cooperative ownership plan for small towns wanting a future which includes broadband.

6. S. Nelson told the Board that there will be another WiredWest Board of Directors meeting this Saturday in Northampton. The goal will be to draft a resolution from the towns expressing the frustration of the people of western Massachusetts who want and need broadband; who have been waiting for eight years for Boston to deliver on its promise of broadband technology for all; and who recognize that MBI cannot get the job done. There will be discussion of whether or not to approach the Governor directly with the resolution. This is a public meeting. Town officials are encouraged to attend and make their voices heard. J. Huebner said that he will draft a letter to the governor in support of the resolution.
7. Dick Grillon raised the option of using wireless towers for broadband delivery. D. Spencer pointed out that this only works reliably in flat terrain with few large trees.
8. J. Huebner asked for suggestions on how best to restore the Old Common. Carol Lew, abutter to the Old Common, gave the Board copies of her detailed proposal on this subject. She included pictures of the site and damage done by Baltazar in the proposal. She proposed: Restoring the field to its original state as much as possible; Restoring the parking area to its original footprint by putting crushed paving material on it to clearly delineate it from the field; Putting fence or a barrier around the parking area to keep vehicles off of non-parking areas; Fully restoring the edges of

West Branch Road and the parking area and maintaining West Branch Road throughout the project leaving it fully repaired before the entire project is over. She also brought up the issues of soil compaction and its mitigation to minimize resulting run off, flooding and diminished plant growth. This should be discussed with Baltazar now, along with the details of plant restoration. C. Lew stressed that we need someone to represent the Town during the restoration and volunteered for that job. J. Huebner made a motion to name Carol to that post. S. Lennon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ed Bond will assist her if needed in communicating with Baltazar.

9. Dick Grillon reported that he was concerned about having drainage problems on his property near Bucksteep caused by Baltazar's work. He thinks Baltazar listened to him but he is getting no response. He asked J. Huebner for help. Jim said he would be glad to talk to the contractor about his problem.
10. A resident told the Board that he walked the tracks near Muddy Pond recently and saw that someone had cut brush and many trees and thrown them in the wetlands. He asked how wide CSX's right of way is. There was general agreement that the cutting was CSX practice. D. Spencer said that the only way to deal with CSX is to threaten them.
11. A resident of Frost Road told the Board of the ongoing problem of big trucks speeding past his house. Today one lost its brakes going downhill and could not stop until it had sped across Rt. 8 and hit the soft soil in front of Woodys. J. Huebner said that he will talk to Baltazar about their speeding trucks. He will call the State Police about these safety issues. He asked Chief Breen to acquaint Baltazar with the speed limits on Frost Road.
12. He also asked Chief Breen to talk to White Wolf about their trucks using Kirchner Road in violation of the weight limits posted there.

13. The Board asked P. Clark to review the status of several engineering projects that he is working on for the Town. **Regarding the Cross Place Road bridge**, he said that he is close to securing final approvals. He needs to have Allison notarize the construction easement for the Cross Place temporary by-pass road. The Army Corps will sign off. He sent Progress Plans to the Board. He does not have the construction costs for this project yet.

Regarding the Middlefield Road bridge P. Clark said that the survey work is done. Cost to inspect the abutments should be in the \$6000 –\$ 8,000 range. If we replace the old abutments with no inspection the cost will be in the \$100,000 range. J. Huebner is inclined to do the assessment. If the abutments are sound we save a lot of money. He made a motion to have the abutment assessment done for a cost of up to \$8,000. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. K. Lew reminded the Board that we have to get as much of this work as possible covered by CH 90 funds. He asked who is responsible for the CH 90 application. P. Clark said that he will talk to DOT to keep the project moving.

Regarding Eden Glen he will address our issues in Boston later this week. He has Army Corps documents for J. Huebner to sign. These have to be notarized. We are on schedule and on budget with this project. J. Huebner said that we have to have further conversation about these projects next week. D. Spencer added that costs have been incurred that we have no appropriation to cover. We will have to go out to bid on this project. P. Clark gave the Board a completed NOI for the Eden Glen project.

14. A resident of Johnson Hill asked that the Town dig out the culvert at the end of her road. Her home is # 389. The blocked culvert has flooded and washed out her mailbox. J. Huebner promised that this will be taken care of.

15. J. Huebner briefly reviewed the following:

- a. Westfield Wild & Scenic will have a meeting on 3/31 in Middlefield from 6:30 – 8:30. They note in their minutes that no work has been done on the Depot Brook culvert.
- b. There will be a Seven Town Advisory meeting on Tuesday April 12 at 7pm at Nessacus on the progress of the Cummington withdrawal request.
- c. The DEP Municipal Grant application has been received and will be given to Michelle Lampro.
- d. No reply yet from DOT to his strongly worded letter on Summit Hill Road bridge.
- e. The MPO said CH 90 has been cut to its level of 3 years ago. The new figure is \$200,000,000 per year for the entire Commonwealth.
- f. Mass will begin using mile markers along all highways to denote exits.
- g. Mass Public Health Alliance will hold a forum on “Aging in Place.”
- h. The DPU sent notice of a filing by Eversource for their grid modernization plan.
- i. From Pittsfield the following Public Notices were received: Permit granted to demolish the building at Columbus/Summer St. Parking Garage; Cafua Realty Trust withdrew its petition for a special zoning permit at 666 Tyler St. and at 75 Plunkett St.; Hearing by the ZBA on the request of Aaron Rocha to garage his commercial vehicle at 243 Churchill St. be continued until April 30th.
- j. Lenox ZBA will hear a petition for Special Permit to add an accessory dwelling unit at 168 Hubbard St.
- k. No meeting on April 18 – Patriots Day
- l. Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday May 11 at 7 pm
- m. Town Elections on Saturday May 21

16. At 8:40pm J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Lennon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson