

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - 4/25/16

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 of April 11, 2016. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner reported that the Annual Town Meeting warrant was nearly complete. The final article to be approved was submitted by S. Nelson, the Town's Delegate to WiredWest, expressing the Town's continuing support for WiredWest's efforts to bring broadband internet to Washington and other western Mass small towns. M. Case made a motion to accept the article. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the warrant and gave it to Chief Breen who, after adding his signature to the warrant, departed immediately to post it at the 3 customary sites in Town – the salt-shed at the Garage, the Old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road and the bulletin board outside the present Town Hall. He reported later that the warrant had been successfully posted.
4. J. Huebner noted that Kinder Morgan has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to not take any further action in processing its application for the Northeast Energy Direct Project. They stated as their reasons for this request "inadequate capacity commitments from prospective customers and a determination that the project is uneconomic...". J. Huebner warned that there is nothing preventing Kinder Morgan from renewing its application.
5. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the May monthly Select Board letter for publication in the Tracks. M. Case seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. J. Huebner also made a motion to approve a letter from the Select Board to Baltazar informing them that Carol Lew and Ed Bond had been given the authority to oversee the restoration of the Old Common on Washington Mountain Road as described in C. Lew's Proposal presented to and approved by the Board on 3/28. The Proposal is attached to these minutes.
7. J. Huebner mentioned that there will be a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting tomorrow at Berkshire Regional Planning's Pittsfield offices. There has been no update from DOT on the Summit Hill Bridge work.
8. Chief Breen told the Board that the \$2,220 grant from FEMA has finally been approved. It will be used to purchase emergency and safety equipment for the Highway Department.
9. A resident of Summit Hill Road asked the Board if the Town could re-paint lines at the top of the hill. J. Huebner asked Tom Johnson to look into that. She also said that the Campground has been open for a couple of weekends already, before its usual opening date of May 1. This surprised her and her neighbors. They have no objection to the Campground at all, but need to know exactly when they plan to be open each season. The residents feel safer knowing who belongs in their neighborhood and who is transient. A recent break-in has many people nervous. The Board advised her to speak directly with Tom Delaney about the neighbors' concerns and to ask him to give them his schedule of all opening and closing dates going forward. Vera Cormier of the Board of Health mentioned that the Campground needs many permits to operate.
10. J. Huebner reported receiving a complaint from a Mr. Gimple who had an accident on Washington Mountain Road. There are questions about what the Town is liable for under the construction conditions. K. Lew advised that the claim be sent to Baltazar.

11. J. Hostetter told the Board that she has started the document shredding necessary to clear the reams of old documents which we are no longer required to retain from the files and offices of Town Hall staff. She also gave the Board a list of the Town Departments and organizations who still owe her their write-ups for the Annual Report.
12. The Board gave Tom Johnson several bridge inspection reports we received from DOT. These appeared to be inspections of the two bridges the Town closed. T. Johnson told the Board that he would add paving the side drainage on Blotz Road to the year's Chapter 90 list. Water has undermined the road in several places. Cost of repairs should be around \$4500 - \$5000. He also told the Board that a culvert on Schulze Road has collapsed. The affected homeowner does not want to be involved. The Board agreed with Tom that the Highway crew should take care of the repair of the culvert.
13. P. Clark told the Board that we are nearly ready to move ahead with the Cross Place Road bridge project. He has received approvals from the Army Corps of Engineers and from DOT. He estimates total cost to be between \$140,000 and \$180,000. Regarding Eden Glen, he has been working on answering questions posed by DOT. J. Huebner suggested he get T. Johnson on the list of signatories for that project. Treasurer Glenn Grogan has put together a list of loans we might be able to use for the Eden Glen recreation area if it is approved at Annual Town Meeting. P. Clark reported that the Middlefield Road bridge abutment evaluation is under way. As soon as he has an estimate he will ask Tom Johnson to apply for Ch. 90 funds
14. The Board discussed a Memo of Agreement between the Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) and the Town. The FDA program would provide online Board of Health permitting. We could use the service at no cost for one year. If we decided to continue we would be charged. The FDA is also a source for community oriented loans. S. Nelson told the

Board that WiredWest had applied for an FDA loan and found the application process very complex and time consuming.

15. J Huebner reported receiving a Quarterly Report from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. Two cases of flu were confirmed for Washington in March. It was noted that we do not have a proper commission on disability.
- 16.M. Case gave a brief update on CBRSD. Cummington has offered less than twenty five cents on the dollar for their withdrawal from the regional school district. That will not be approved by the District. CBRSD was recently audited by the state and received high marks. There were no negatives on the audit. Becket Washington School continues to be a magnet school, drawing new students from other towns.
17. Shaun Lennon told his colleagues on the Board that he wanted to remove a large mound of soil on his property in order to re-route his driveway. The mound was there on his Frost Road property when he bought it. He is not sure what is in the mound. However he does have a letter from DEP certifying that it was just fill. The Board agreed that the letter was adequate to go forward with his plans to remove the mound. The Board approved his application to renew his used car business. The permit cost is \$100.
18. J. Huebner commented briefly on the following:
 - a. Received Westfield Wild & Scenic Meeting Notice for 4/28. It mentioned that Washington has hired a new engineer to complete the replacement plans for the Cross Place Road bridge.
 - b. Received from the Hinsdale Planning Board notice of a public hearing on May 3rd for changes to the Hinsdale Zoning Bylaws. The changes concern drinking water supply protection, Hinsdale FEMA floodplain and solar photovoltaic installations.

- c. Received from the City of Pittsfield joint notice of Special Permit public hearings on May 3 (ground-mounted photovoltaic system at Rt. 20 and Rt. 41) and May 11 (same, at another location on Rt. 20) .
- d. Received from Dalton notice of hearing on May 3 on a complaint of the town's failure to enforce zoning bylaws at 164-168 Hinsdale Road in Dalton.
- e. Also received from Dalton notice of hearing on May 3 on a special permit application for the addition of outdoor dining for up to 30 people at 164 Hinsdale Rd. in Dalton.
- f. Received from Town of Lenox ZBA a Decision granting the petitioners request for a special permit by the owners of 168 Hubbard St. to establish an Accessory Dwelling Unit at their property.
- g. No News on the Veterans Memorial or the cemetery land.

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

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Nelson

