

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 2, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from April 25, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. M. Case reported that the funds in the Emma Bailey Scholarship account are down to about \$5,000. Over the years the money has been awarded to many deserving local high school graduate applicants who successfully complete their first semester in college. The amount of each Emma Bailey award has been lowered to \$200. After a couple of quiet years we have 7 applicants this spring. M. Case said that we must come up with a plan to replenish the fund somehow. D. Spencer added that most students who apply for the Emma Bailey Scholarship also apply for the Washington Town scholarship.
4. Updating the Selectmen on last Saturday's WiredWest Board meeting, S. Nelson said that lengthy reports on broadband regionalization and on fixed wireless applications were heard. When they are available summaries of the reports will be sent to town officials and other interested parties. Trish Drugmond requested copies. D. Spencer asked S. Nelson about the impact on Hinsdale of Charter Cable Systems acquiring Time Warner. S. Nelson replied that if this happens Charter will likely upgrade the Hinsdale system to full broadband capability. If that happens Hinsdale will probably opt out of WiredWest.
5. D. Spencer told the Board that he has found some arithmetic errors in the ATM warrant, will get this straightened out and look into how that happened.

6. J. Huebner mentioned that he had received financial profiles of broadband-eligible western Mass towns from Christine Hatch of MBI. As there was no information provided on the assumptions behind the numbers the profiles were of little or no use. He encouraged all to sign the online petition at [change.org](http://change.org) in support of the WiredWest regional broadband network.
7. J. Huebner said that these are sad days with news of Kent Lew's mother hospitalized with a severe stroke, Barbara Simmons at BMC with heart trouble and the death of S. Lennon's wife's aunt. This last is the reason S. Lennon is not present tonight.
8. On the subject of Cummington's withdrawal from CBRSD, D. Spencer told the Board that nothing is going to happen before next October at best. Cummington has decided to get an independent assessment of the finances involved in their withdrawing from the district. If this assessment changes our understanding of the numbers, we may have to get our own assessment. They owe \$2.1 million to the district according to our current assessment. No matter the outcome of any new assessment, they will still have a minimum required contribution. He believes that our school system is still stable despite a lot of choicing- out. There is steady choicing- in at Becket/Washington school.
9. Tom Johnson, Highway Superintendent, told the Board that CSX did not reply to Jim's email about flooding on Upper Valley Road adjacent to the railroad right of way caused by their over-zealous brush and tree clearing. He checked conditions at the top of Summit Hill and, weather permitting, will begin line painting there later this week. He has an estimate of \$18,000 to paint all of the lines in Town. This work will not happen immediately. First the repairs to Blotz Road must be done, including the swales. He is putting out a request for bids on the Blotz repairs. Lines on Washington Mountain Road will be painted as part of the Baltazar contract.

- 10.M. Case said that DCR is re-surfacing Schmerhorn Road with gravel, creating a passable road through a portion of October Mountain State Forest.
11. Kyle Murphy of Baltazar has put Mr. Gimple in touch with their insurer. Mr. Gimple's car was damaged by poor surface conditions on Washington Mountain Road Last week.
- 12.J. Huebner attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization ( MPO) meeting last week. There was a strong consensus for repairing the Skyline Trail which passes through portions of Hinsdale, Washington and Middlefield.
- 13.Mr. Inganni of Middlefield Road has asked when the assessment of the Middlefield bridge abutments will be completed.
- 14.Treasurer Glenn Grogan told the Board that he had received a confusing note from Verizon concerning the issuance of a \$20,000 bond to them. It was thought that this pertained to the cell tower located near Town Hall behind Chief Breen's property on Route 8. They appeared to want confirmation that the tower was still there. Chief Breen confirmed this.
- 15.J. Hostetter told the Board that all of the departmental reports for inclusion in the Annual Report had been submitted to her except for electrician Jim LaPier's and plumber Mark Levernoch's.
- 16.J. Huebner thanked Glenn Grogan for continuing his search for loan money for which the Town could apply if the article to construct a recreational area at Eden Glen is approved at Annual Town Meeting.
17. J. Hostetter reminded the Board that the Town could lose its remaining COA funds if they are not used soon. There is about \$5200 left in the account. She suggested that the money could be well spent on a cart to move the black folding chairs off the stage and into the storage room. The

ladies room could also use updating. Chief Breen said that he would advise her how best to access the funds and use them for the COA's benefit. D. Spencer suggested that we could collaborate with Becket and Hinsdale to offer seniors bus tours to places of interest.

18. Chair J. Huebner commented briefly on the following:

- a. Letter received from Mass Office on Disability regarding setting up a Town Disability Council. It would require 3 to 5 members. He will put a notice in Tracks to see if there is any interest.
- b. Vera Cormier of the Board of Health mentioned that we received the expected check.
- c. Notification received from the Army Corps of Engineers authorizing the Town to move forward with the replacement of the current Cross Place Road bridge.
- d. Notification received of a series of public meetings to be held by Mass DOT statewide to present their Draft Five Year Capital Investment Plan. Our local presentation will be held May 5 at 6:00 pm in the Pittsfield City Hall Council Chamber.
- e. An entertaining and informative program on "disrupting "aging will be presented at the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield on Tuesday, May 17. Call Home Instead Senior Care for Tickets at 413-442-0907.
- f. Received a Resources Report from Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) .
- g. Received a letter from the Mass Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education forwarded by J. Peterson Superintendent of Smith Vocational & Agricultural School District pertaining to admission of students to ninth grade exploratory programs and capping the tuition rate for out of district students.
- h. Notice from the Lenox ZBA about a May 18 meeting regarding Matthew Keator's request for a variance to renovate the third floor of an existing residence at 27 Undermountain Road to install a new bathroom.

19. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson