

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 9, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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 from May 2, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. Tricia and Dave Drugmand addressed the Board about drainage issues on their property caused by the Washington Mountain Road (WMR) construction. Runoff water has been collecting in their main driveway. They suggested that replacing the undersized culvert installed by Baltazar and filling in the ditch subsequently created by runoff from their pond, could solve this problem. Dave spoke with Baltazar about this. He also asked them about guardrails planned for the area along the road at the front edge of their property. He pointed out that guardrails will interfere with snow plowing and removal. He told the Board that there is a four foot drop at that point, but further along the road where there is no ditch they are also planning guard rails. J. Huebner reminded him that Baltazar is working off plans developed by DOT some years ago. M. Case said that state law requires guardrails along ditches four feet deep. J. Huebner told the Drugmands that he will talk to DOT about their issues and will get back to them.
4. Mary Jarvie told the Board that Ernie Lampron's driveway washes onto Summit Hill Road every time it rains. This makes a mess of the road. Ernie has the equipment to fix the problem. J. Huebner asked Tom Johnson to speak with Ernie about this situation. Ken Walls suggested that putting down 40 feet of stone would stop the erosion. Mary Jarvie also told the Selectmen that Mr. Bord who bought the property on Summit Hill Road has torn down the house on that site. He appeared to have no permit to do

that. J. Huebner advised her to call our Building Inspector, Paul Greene, and ask him if a permit has been issued. She also mentioned that there are four or five huge piles of trash on the site.

5. Vera Cormier told the Board that Baltazar had been careful to avoid disturbing her garden in their work today. She expects that she will get more water flowing onto her property from across the road even though they told her that they will begin culvert work this week. The roots of her tall trees have been exposed by the run off. She expects that they will fall down. Dick Grillon added that Baltazar had carted off his rosebushes. E. Bond asked how far the bushes were from the road. D. Grillon also said that Baltazar had delivered culvert pipe too big for his property. He complained and they took the pipe away. No replacement pipe has been delivered. J. Huebner said that he will check on these complaints with Baltazar.
6. E. Bond told the Board that he is prepared to make any necessary changes to the Annual Town Meeting warrant from the floor.
7. The Board learned that Peter Larkin, former Democratic Representative from Pittsfield, has been named new Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Mass. Broadband Institute (MBI). The Board thought this was a very positive step toward re-starting the work of bringing broadband to Town. All remembered him from his service to the greater Pittsfield community. Shaun Lennon suggested we write a congratulatory letter to him and perhaps invite him to a meeting.
8. J. Huebner mentioned that Baltazar has put down an extra layer of paving on the narrow places along WMR.
9. A wide-ranging discussion on other major Town projects followed. P. Clark told the Board that he is waiting for approval to use a portion of Chapter 90 funds on the Cross Place Road bridge construction. There will be an inspection in the next couple of days. He should have the bid package

finished this week. Bid opening would be scheduled for two to three weeks after that. J. Huebner asked Tom Johnson about the Blotz Road bid package. T. Johnson told the Chair that bid opening is scheduled for June 6. J. Huebner said that CSX did address the latest beaver problem. The new CSX engineer seems more responsive to our needs than his predecessor. There is no news from DOT on the Summit Hill Bridge. Regarding Eden Glen P. Clark told the Board that he was responding to questions from DOT. Hydraulics are being reviewed. He reported that there will be drilling this week on Middlefield Road to determine if the original bridge abutments can be used for the new bridge. Chief Breen said that he will find a police officer to manage traffic at the site. The work should take about 4 hours.

10. M. Case said that he will talk to Peter Blake about placing flags on veterans' graves at Old Town Hall. P. Blake had been in charge of this in the past. We need 21 flags. S. Lennon suggested we get the Boy Scouts involved.
11. J. Huebner stated that there has been no progress on the 5 acres of cemetery land promised to us by Pittsfield. This is an agreement with Pittsfield on principle only.
12. Chief Breen told the Board that he continues to keep a close eye on Bucksteep as it appears to be vacant. He fears vandalism. The Board thanked him for this effort.
13. J. Huebner reminded all that we have a shortfall in the Emma Bailey Scholarship Fund. It was originally to be funded out of interest. That funding has proved inadequate largely because of the low interest rates that have prevailed in recent years. As a result, we have drawn down the principal. J. Huebner made a motion to cover the current shortfall out of the Selectmen's expense account. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously. D. Grillon told the Board that Emma Bailey was hired to be the Town's school teacher in the 18th century.

14. J. Hostetter reported to the Board that with Chief Breen's assistance she has been working on learning the grant process to better use funds available to the COA and other Town organizations. She has been working steadily on the document shredding. She expects to complete the shredding in this fiscal year. She had talked to Tom Johnson about transporting the shredded paper to the transfer station. J. Huebner suggested she also speak with M. Lampro about the best way to package up the shreddings for recycling.

15.J. Huebner briefly mentioned the following:

- a. The Mass Bar Association will offer **free legal advice** to Western Mass. residents by phone on May 25 at 413-782-1659 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Normal phone charges will apply.
- b. Received a copy of a letter from the Town of Colrain to Governor Baker. Colrain has decided to work exclusively with MBI to build its broadband network.

16.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

17. Adjourn 7:55.

