

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen - May 16, 2016

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 from May 9, 2016. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. Roy Bryan, our representative to Westfield Wild & Scenic, told the Board that he had done some research and has information for them from the Mass. Department of Fish and Game about possible grants to remove dams. He presented the Board with a "Provisional Project Cooperative Agreement. Division of Ecological Restoration." He encouraged the Board and Phil Clark to look into this. He said that the deadline for applying is coming up very soon, perhaps by the end of May. Ken Walls told the Board that he has a file on the dam and the Westfield Wild and Scenic report. Roy Bryan said that he will also pull together some additional information.
4. Dave Drugmand of the Parks Committee thanked all who had helped out on Park Clean- up day last Saturday. The turnout was strong and much needed work was accomplished. He offered additional thanks to Craig Willis who, along with his crew, did major work on the park paths. He declared that the walk now looks as good as it ever has. Even the weeds have been raked out of the path. Dave mentioned that he had followed up, as the Board suggested, with Baltazar about the installation of guard rail on his property and the difficulty that would cause for snow removal and plowing.
5. Carol Lew told the Board that, following the death of his mother, Kent would be out for the rest of the month. She also said that Kyle Murphy of Baltazar told her they were finished using the Old Common as their gravel staging area. She has shared with him her ideas for how it should be

restored and found him receptive. She added that he has been cooperative with the Town's requirements so far.

6. J. Huebner reported receiving notice from the Division of Local Services of the Mass. Department of Revenue certifying that for fiscal year 2016 our Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT funding) from the City of Pittsfield will be \$99,808.03. Pittsfield owes us this money for land it owns in Washington and uses for water supply purposes. D. Spencer mentioned that Kent Lew did much research and found the original watershed contract we signed with Pittsfield in 1930. Kent has developed an excellent process for keeping track of what is owed us and making sure it gets paid.
7. J. Huebner reported receiving from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the 2016 Excise Tax Commitment for all businesses owning vehicles in the Town.
8. Chief Breen informed the Board about some security problems at the Transfer Station. When he parks the school bus in the Highway yard he has noticed people illegally dumping and removing items from the metal bin. He said that the gate is sometimes left open on Wednesday. He suggested that if the Transfer Station is closed the gate should be locked. T. Johnson mentioned that the side gate onto the Highway yard is also sometimes left open. M. Case told him to lock the gate when he sees it open as this is a safety issue.
9. J. Huebner announced that his wife, Jan Paxton-Huebner has volunteered for the Building Committee at Wacannah. She has had much experience working with CBRSD during and since the building of the High School.
10. The Select Board signed a sympathy card for Kent Lew and a get-well card for Barbara Simmons.

11. A brief discussion of the Eden Glen dam followed. At the ATM residents voted not to fund the repair of the dam and development of a recreation area at that site. Ken Walls pointed out that there are grants available to take out dams, not to repair them. He suggested that the Town contact the local dam removal expert recently written about in the Eagle. D. Spencer said that we should clean up the area anyway. It is Town land. M. Case said that many residents do not know that there is a well kept recreation area in October State Forest that offers swimming, fishing and camping. It is located near the Interpretive Trail which is a self-guided tour about the flora and fauna of the area

12. M. Case told the Selectmen that as he cannot continue on the School Board, the town needs to identify a candidate to replace him.

13. Dick Spencer said that the Finance Committee is reviewing all of the Town's various revolving accounts. He welcomes any help in putting the list together.

14. P. Clark told the Board that he has prepared the state wage rates required by Mass DOT for Cross Place Road. He expects to bid the project in 2 to 3 weeks. The Board signed the application paperwork. The Selectmen said we will investigate funding sources for stream debris clean-up and dam removal. P. Clark said that he has no new information from Mass DOT on Eden Glen. He is certain however that the work of building the new culvert will be completed this Fall. Regarding Middlefield Road bridge, Mr. Inganni has asked when we will know about the condition of the original abutments. P. Clark said that information will be available in 2 to 3 weeks. He will inform Mr. Inganni of this schedule. T. Drugmand told the Board that she had spoken with him and that he was upset that he was not informed of the drilling last week. P. Clark told the Board that Jeff Collingsworth, a licensed engineer, has joined his firm bringing additional expertise to client projects

15. Sean Connors asked if the Town needs to rescind the previous vote on repairing the dam at the last Special Town Meeting. Trish Drugmand told the Board that she thinks that is a good idea just for clarification. In a nutshell, at the STM we voted yes we want it, and at the ATM we voted that no we don't want to pay for it.

16. T. Johnson told the Board that he is looking into CH. 90 money for Cross Place Bridge. He spoke with Ernie Lampron and he agreed to fix his driveway so that debris doesn't wash into the street after heavy rains.

17. Mike Case said that he can order 24 flags and holders from Pittsfield. J. Huebner made a motion that we purchase this material from Pittsfield. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

18. J. Huebner said that he had instructed the Treasurer to transfer money to cover the Emma Bailey Scholarship shortfall from the Select Board's expense fund but this may not be possible. He will investigate.

19. S. Nelson gave the Select Board an update on the status of the broadband effort. He said that he is much encouraged by the Governor's choice of Peter Larkin to Chair the Board of Directors of the Mass Broadband Initiative and to finish the "Last Mile." Until this positive development there was no one from Western Mass on the MBI Board. Mr. Larkin was Democratic Representative from Pittsfield to the General Assembly for several productive terms. He is well qualified for the post as he has a background in the electrical power industries and also was involved in writing the legislation which created MLP coops in the state. This is the same legislation used as the framework for Wired West's cooperative structure.

S. Nelson told the Board that the Town needs to nominate a representative to be our contact to the MBI Board. J. Huebner nominated S. Nelson to this

position. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. S. Nelson will inform MBI of this. He also reported that he has been reviewing the Town's written Profile as prepared by MBI from published materials and has found some errors which he will correct. Copies of the Profile were included in the Board's materials. The errors are pretty obvious, like listing James Taylor's home as a town building or mapping Washington Mountain Road as a zig-zag road. State Land is not always correctly identified, among a number of like errors. Our capital expenditures were modelled in Boston. With our \$770,000 per last year's ATM we are in compliance. This may actually be a not to exceed number. Our assessed property values may need to be updated.

A recent review of Mass General Laws indicates that we may be able to roll the broadband debt over a number of times one year at a time and never have to go to the bonding process. S. Nelson said he will get more information on the profile to the Board.

20. J. Huebner reported no word from DOT on the Summit Hill Road bridge.

21. J. Hostetter told the Board that it is time to renew the copier contract. We do not own the copier. We contract for the servicing. The machine has been reliable and service is prompt. D. Spencer observed that it is much more reliable than the previous one. Funds to cover the copier cost were in the 2016 budget. She said that she met with Chief Breen to formulate our approach to winning grants. They are discussing how best to use the COA funds. A request had been received from Carol Kennedy to remodel the women's rest room. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to let her know that we are considering it. She has been working steadily at the shredding project.

22. D. Parnell told the Board that Jim Peltier asked how Baltazar will repair the road and the sign at the Appalachian Trail entrance on WMR.

23.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

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