

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – May 23, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and Tricia Drugmand.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner congratulated T. Drugmand on her election and welcomed her to the Select Board. He then called for nominations for Board Chair. M. Case nominated J. Huebner. T. Drugmand seconded that nomination. He accepted the nomination and called for discussion. There being none, he called for the vote. The vote for J. Huebner as Chair was by affirmation. After a brief discussion of the nature of the office of Board Clerk, J. Huebner nominated T. Drugmand for that office. She accepted the nomination. J. Huebner called for discussion and there being none, the vote. She was voted Board Clerk by affirmation.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes from May 16, 2016. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. J. Huebner told T. Drugmand that it is the Board's expectation to receive a draft of the minutes from the Administrative Assistant for review on Wednesday evening. The draft is emailed to all Board members. The Board then responds with corrections. The corrections are made and the final version of the minutes is sent out to the Board members again. If any conflicting corrections should occur the Administrative Assistant will report that to the Board at the next meeting for discussion.
4. S. Nelson told the Board that Bill Enning is the new MBI liaison to the towns. He has indicated that MBI plans to finance and build broadband systems for the larger western Mass unserved towns first. The WiredWest delegate from Windsor was told that MBI does not want to work with WiredWest. If a town states that they prefer to have their system built through the WiredWest coop MBI will decide how to proceed at that point.

WiredWest is trying to get a meeting with MBI Board Chair, Peter Larkin, to clarify the state's position going forward. As requested by MBI, Steve is reviewing the Town's Profile as written by MBI and has found many errors which would lead to unnecessary costs when the network is built out. He will send them a corrected version. Many other WiredWest towns have made similar discoveries in their profiles. J. Huebner told S. Nelson that the Board wants to meet with Bill Ennis to communicate the strong support of the Town for WiredWest and its plan for bringing broadband to rural towns.

5. Dick Grillon congratulated Tricia Drugmand on her election to the Select Board. After a brief discussion of Rosa Rugosa, he informed the Board that he had learned Emma Bailey had never actually taught school in Washington, as had previously been assumed. She did however endow the scholarship fund that has aided so many college bound graduates of our local schools. Those funds have now been exhausted. Continuing a discussion begun last week, J. Huebner reported that the Board had arranged to transfer money to cover the \$1400 shortfall in the scholarship fund. The Town Clerk will handle this. J. Huebner asked R. Grillon if, during his term as Select Board Chair, Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee members had been appointed. He replied that they were generally volunteers as is now the practice.
6. Dave Drugmand congratulated his wife on her election to the Select Board. He also voiced his thanks for Shaun Lennon's years of service to the town.
7. Vera Cormier voiced her frustration about not being able to access the Board of Health mail because it is slipped under the Administrative Assistant's door during the day. As a result of this arrangement she missed the NAHB mail she was looking for.
8. Mary Jarvie asked if the Board had been notified whether the Summit Hill Campground will hire a police detail to manage the traffic for the car show

this year. The Board did not have that information. They advised her to talk to Chief Been on that matter. Regarding the old house that was demolished on Summit Hill, J. Huebner asked her to consult Building Inspector Paul Greene. R. Grillon asked if this was the property owned by BCC.

9. At Annual Town Meeting on May 11 residents voted against paying for the restoration of the Eden Glen dam. A. Mikaniewicz asked whether that vote necessitated calling a Special Town meeting to rescind the earlier STM vote to restore the dam. J. Huebner said that we do not need an STM as we are currently looking at funding possibilities which may cover the cost of dam removal.
- 10.D. Spencer agreed with the Board and does not think we will need a Special Town Meeting now. He is looking into some financial issues in Kent Lews's absence. He is going through the revolving accounts. He reported receiving \$1500 in permit payments from the electrical inspector.
11. J. Huebner asked the Highway Department for an update. Tom Johnson reported that the beaver problem is happening again at Lower Valley Road. He will be in touch with CSX. He has locked the gates to the Transfer Station per the Select Board's request. Balthazar is no longer staging materials on the Old Common next to the Lew's property. T. Drugmand added that she has been in touch with Carol Lew who confirmed that this activity seems to be finished. J. Huebner asked V. Cormier to call him when Balthazar starts work on her culvert. They have not done so yet. J. Huebner said that he will discuss the duration of the project with Balthazar. The current estimate is that they will finish by the end of the summer. M. Case added that Balthazar has put temporary blacktop on some ditches and added rumble strips in some places. M. Case reported erosion again at the end of Schulze Road. T. Johnson said that he will put down fill at that spot.

12. J. Huebner said that the Town has been cleared to use \$250,000 of Chapter money for the Cross Place Road culvert project. Phil Clark will finish putting the bid offer together and expects to open bids on June 6. T. Johnson said that he has a list of pre-qualified bidders. He will discuss the project further with Cathy Stevens of DOT.
13. J. Huebner said that the Summit Hill Bridge project is still on the TIP list even though we have not had a reply from DOT to our questions and objections to their plans yet.
14. The Board has taken out a renewal note for \$580,362. This is an anticipation note for one year. J. Huebner made a motion that the Board sign the note. M. Case seconded. The vote to sign the note was unanimous. J. Huebner mentioned that our bond for the highway garage has been paid in full. Selectmen Grillon, Cawley and Fish had been the original signatories.
15. T. Drugmand asked about ongoing survey work on Washington Mountain Road. Markers have been placed. T. Johnson said that these will mark the right of way, not the road width. Phil Clark hired the surveyor. Balthazar is following plans which are 20 years old.
16. T. Johnson said that DOT has marked Blotz Road for culverts. We will know on June 6<sup>th</sup> when that work will start.
17. J. Huebner will accept an invitation to attend a lunch on June 9<sup>th</sup> sponsored by a Berkshire Realtors group. All of the prospective candidates for Senator Downing's seat will be there to get acquainted.
18. M. Case reported that he has obtained flags for our veterans' graves. Peter Blake will place all of the flags before Memorial Day. We will have to pay for new stakes to hold the flags. There is no news on the Pittsfield cemetery land. M. Case will try to get a meeting with Mayor Tyre on this next week.

- 19.D. Spencer told the Board that he had gone on a hike led by Westfield Wild & Scenic last week from Arlo Guthrie's house to follow the brook down to Simmons Road. He saw brook trout in the upper reaches. He saw no sign of there ever having been a breached beaver dam on the brook. There are 2 branches so the beaver situation is hard to figure out.
20. Ken Walls told the Board that he has spoken to Nick Waterman of the Department of Fish and Game who told him that there is money available to remove dams but no money to fund repairs or maintenance. Ken said that he needed a letter from the Town to go further. This could be a different pathway for dam removal. Ken will send J. Huebner the information.
- 21.S. Conners asked if the Board was pursuing its own wish for the dam or the peoples wish. He asked if the Town can't find funding to remove the dam will we look to maintain it? J. Huebner told him that whatever happens, it will have to go back to the voters first. M. Burke asked if we have researched the question. M. Case confirmed that there is no money to rebuild dams, only to remove them. Jim said that any research M. Burke might want to do on the subject would be welcome. M. Burke volunteered to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. J. Huebner told him to fill out the application on the rear of the Annual Report.
22. T. Drugmand will attend a conference on conflict resolution techniques for the Board.
23. J. Hostetter told the Board that no check was issued for the Fat Cow. It was in tonight's warrant. She paid for it with her credit card and will file an expense report. She is working on updating the appointments list. She will send out the Performance Review forms. She has spoken with the printer of our Annual Report about the error made on the report cover. That will

be corrected by the printer. He will supply new covers. Shredding continues.

24. J. Huebner reported that Jeff Sawtelle has resigned from managing the COA. Tom Deloye has indicated some interest in the post. J. Huebner reached out to him. He is certain that, come what may, there will be a COA dinner on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
25. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the monthly Selectmen's Letter as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the letter was approved unanimously.
26. M. Case has officially stepped down from the School Committee. The Town must find a new representative.
27. J. Huebner asked T. Drugmand if she would represent the Town at a meeting of Berkshire County town officials in Great Barrington on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will be focused on how towns can best move forward with sharing municipal services. This is a topic of great interest currently as towns seek to maintain a high quality of service while simultaneously containing costs. T. Drugmand agreed to attend the meeting.
28. M. Case asked if the Board can change its meeting dates at will. He asked because there will be an important legislative forum at Nessacus on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. He believes that it would be beneficial for the Town if the entire Board attends. The meeting is open to the public also. J. Huebner agreed and will cancel the meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. He will put that information on next week's agenda.
29. He mentioned that Tennessee Gas (Kinder Morgan) formally withdrew its petition to FERC to build the pipeline across the state.

30. Chief Breen told the Board that he checks regularly on Bucksteep. He has the owner's permission to be on the property at any time. Chief Breen is worried about the possible torching of the lodge building.

31. T. Drugmand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. J. Huebner seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson

