

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – June 6, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and T. Drugmand.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of May 23, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. David Weissbrod introduced film maker Leo Mahoney of Lee to the Select Board. Mr. Mahoney asked the Board's approval for his plan to use the West Branch Cemetery to film part of a documentary he is making . He will use electronic gear about the size of a lawn mower to take ground radar scans of the ground. No burials or headstones will be disturbed. He will give the Town a full report of his results which will provide us with an accurate chart of all underground objects. He told the Board that he has all the necessary permits from the state to do this work. M. Case asked just which permits he had and was satisfied that they were the correct papers. M. Case noted that the cemetery is located in the state forest, not in Washington. The Board approved his request to film at West Branch Cemetery.
4. Ed Bond gave the Board a plan of the Old Common restoration which he, Carol Lew and Ed Neumuth had negotiated with Baltazar. The contractor agreed to install granite posts like those on the Old Town Hall lawn to create a clearly marked parking area on the Old Common. Seeding of the field will also take place per the original plan. T. Drugmand said that she had attended the meeting at which the parking area plan was developed.
5. M. Case initiated discussion of the burial area at Old Town Hall. He suggested moving the memorials to the Old Common where they would be more visible and would free up more area for new burials at Old Town Hall.

D. Grillon disagreed. He said we would not gain much burial space by such a move. T. Drugmand said that the Town had discussed building a new memorial wall to be located on the north side of the Old Town Hall some time ago. J. Huebner recalled that some funds had been appropriated for this project. D. Grillon said that there did not seem to be much interest in it at the time. J. Huebner asked him to write up a proposal for the project to be printed in Tracks. If some volunteers came forward we could get to work on the wall.

6. Ken Walls told the Board that he had attended a Westfield Wild & Scenic meeting at which the Eden Glen dam had been discussed. He spoke about our removal project with an engineer from the state.
7. T. Johnson told J. Huebner that CSX had never picked up the beaver permit for the flooding at mile 138. J. Huebner said that he will sign an extension of that permit. T. Johnson also told him that Baltazar said they will cover the drainage ditches as requested. He mentioned that pieces of metal in the gravel we recently received probably caused the flat tires both Jan Greene and Tricia Drugmand got in the vicinity of Schulze Road.
8. J. Huebner reported that we have finally received a response from DOT to our letter requesting some changes in their plan for the restoration of the Summit Hill bridge. They rejected all of our requests. He did learn that they expect the project to take 4.5 months to complete. Work will begin next spring. P. Clark told the Board that Cross Place Road culvert bids are due on Monday 6/20 at 7:30. He also told the Board that he has a meeting with DOT in Boston about Eden Glen coming up. He plans to do the bid opening on that project in early July. M. Case added that DCR is looking to have their Bailey Bridge back from Cross Place Road.
9. On the subject of Eden Glen Dam J. Huebner reported receiving an RFR from The Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) which may be a source for some grant money and technical assistance to remove the dam.

DER could also be a source for assistance in applying for a larger grant for this project. He is writing our response to the RFR.

10. At 7:30 J. Huebner opened the 4 sealed bids which were submitted for the re-paving of Blotz Road. The bids for this work were as follows: Lane Construction \$ 299,767.50; HMA \$ 277,516.10; Delsignore \$ 293,223.60; LB Corporation \$ 279,480.00. All bids were considerably higher than our estimate. J. Huebner tabled the matter for further study.

11. M. Case had spoken with Baltazar about millings and gravel. They told him that the Town can have any leftover material, though there probably won't be much. They are not planning on taking anything out after the construction is completed.

12. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson if she would be the Town's Procurement Officer. She agreed to the request.

13. Chief Breen reported that the lawns had been mowed at Bucksteep. There was no evidence of any events being held on the premises. He asked if there was any way the property could revert to the Town after lying vacant for some period of time. Kent Lew told him that as long as the property remained a legal 501-C3, the town had no claim on it.

14. Trish Drugmand said that she plans to attend the June 23 meeting in Great Barrington on the Community Compact effort. This is the program supported by the state and by Smitty Pignatelli locally which seeks to promote the sharing of professional services among Berkshire towns. T. Drugmand is reviewing materials on the status of the Compact. Washington signed the Compact last fall.

15. J. Huebner will attend a lunch at the Berkshire Hills Country Club on June 10th sponsored by the Berkshire Realtors Association and attended by our

legislative delegation and all of the candidates for Ben Downing's state senate seat.

16.J. Hostetter told the Board that she had received from White Wolf a contract for the next 3 years' of Transfer Station hauling. The bid was level funded to this year and shows no increase for the next three years. It will be \$185 to haul household waste and \$230 for hauling each of the recycling containers (paper and plastic). Disposal is at \$ 92.50 per ton. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the contract for the next 3 years as written. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous. The Board signed and asked J. Hostetter to get Craig's signature on the document. M. Case asked what will happen if Covanta closes in 2 years as is rumored. The Board will look into this.

17.J. Hostetter reported that she has been working on updating the Town re-appointments to various positions. No one has resigned so far. She also told the Board that Steve DeLoye has agreed to take the position of COA Director. Jan Paxton-Huebner and Barbara Keyes have volunteered to help him out. J. Hostetter told the Board that she is working with the guidance of Chief Breen to use remaining COA grant funds to improve the Town Hall kitchen and to add another session of the seniors' balance class being taught by Porchlight VNA. She would also like to get funding to purchase a chair cart for the auditorium. J. Huebner inquired about the status of the Performance Evaluation forms. J. Hostetter told him that she had sent out all the forms to affected Professional personnel. J. Huebner told her that the Board will do Dan Parnell's appraisal. They will do D. Fish's as Superintendent and T. Johnson's using the hourly employee form.

18.Michelle Lampro told the Board that most of a large pine tree had come down in the recent wind storm. A large portion of the tree was left in a threatening position. She got a price on taking down that portion of the tree from Bolduc. They had quoted \$1500. As there were questions about

this quote being too high, no decision was made and the Board will take up the issue again at the 6/20 meeting.

19. The Board agreed to the placement of a sign for the Hilltown Bruhaha, the Becket/Washington summer fair, outside Town Hall.

20. K. Lew advised J. Hostetter and M. Lampro to check with our paper recycling company to be sure they will accept the paper we have been shredding from the Town Offices. J. Hostetter has shredded a large amount and is planning to bring it to the Transfer station. Kent said that some companies will not recycle shreddings unless the grain runs in a certain direction or the shreddings meet specific criteria.

21. J. Huebner reported receiving a request from Berkshire Regional Transportation authority (BRTA) to name our representative to the BRTA for this year. M. Case, our current representative, volunteered to continue in that position. J. Huebner made a motion to reappoint M. Case as our BRTA representative. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to reappoint him was unanimous.

22. J. Huebner mentioned that he had signed a document from the Mass. Broadband Institute confirming that the Town is committed to remaining a member of WiredWest. He passed that document to S. Nelson and requested an update on his meeting with Bill Ennen, the new MBI liaison to the underserved or unserved towns. S. Nelson told him that he was encouraged by this meeting and believes that he will work in good faith with the towns. Mr. Ennen is one of several new people appointed to MBI by the Governor and charged with getting the broadband network back on track after the state's long "pause". He will report to the Governor monthly.

MBI's next major effort will be a Readiness Assessment of all 44 broadband-eligible western Mass towns. This will include all WiredWest member towns as well as those few who have built their own systems or have

decided to go that route. After a brief discussion there was general agreement that smaller towns like Washington can only afford broadband as members of a regional group. S. Nelson told the Select Board that he will need an alternate to assist with the financial discussions required to complete our Readiness Assessment. Kent Lew volunteered for that job. J. Huebner made a motion to nominate K. Lew for this position. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve K. Lew as WiredWest alternate delegate was unanimous. The Board approved and along with S. Nelson, thanked Kent for doing so. As part of the Readiness Assessment, S. Nelson said that there will be a meeting here at Town Hall with MBI technical staff in the near future. He mentioned that he had finished revising our Town Profile for MBI. J. Huebner said he had reviewed it and thought it looked good.

23.J. Huebner reviewed and commented briefly on the following:

- a. Receipt of a Notice of Decision from Pittsfield to grant a Special Permit under Article 23 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow the keeping of 6 chickens at a private residence in the city.
- b. Letter from the Town of Colrain notifying us that they have decided to withdraw as a member of WiredWest.
- c. Notice from the Lenox ZBA concerning an accessory structure on a property at 430 East Main St. and a second concerning adding a mud room and deck on a property at 12 Maple Street.
- d. The old maple tree on the semi-circular driveway outside Town Hall is rotted and will have to be taken down.
- e. Vera Cormier is to notify J. Huebner when Baltazar starts work on her culvert.

24.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson