

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – June 27, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and T. Drugmand.
2. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from June 20, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner read the July monthly Select Board letter aloud and made a motion that the Board approve it. M. Case seconded and the motion to approve carried unanimously. J. Huebner asked that the letter be emailed tonight to the Tracks for publication.
4. Board of Health member Vera Cormier reported that there had been people up at Bucksteep this weekend. There was no event taking place.
5. Highway Superintendent Tom Johnson told the Select Board that the highway crew had completed their personnel review forms and turned them in. D. Fish's court date has been re-scheduled in September. T. Johnson said that D. Fish is kept very busy with equipment maintenance and repairs as well as mowing, organizing parts storage, cleaning up the garage, etc. Tom has no trouble keeping him busy. He told the Board that D. Fish plans to attend one of the Select Board meetings after his hearing. T. Johnson told the Board that he received permission from DCR to keep their bridge for another year or two.

In other Highway Department business, the Select Board signed two contracts for major project work in Town. Proposals had been solicited and opened in public meeting on Monday, 6/6 for the paving on Blotz Road. The low bid was from HMA and came in at \$ 277,516.10. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the Blotz Road paving bid. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous. Similarly, on 6/20 the Board opened bids in

public meeting for the Cross Place Road culvert. The low bid was \$247,990 from C&A Construction. J. Huebner made a motion that this bid be accepted. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the C&A bid was unanimous. T. Johnson said he had discussed the potential contractors with Cathy Stevens of DOT. As directed by J. Huebner, he will communicate the Town's decisions to the bidders and organize plans to begin construction.

S. Nelson told T. Johnson that Cross Place Road is badly in need of grading. T. Johnson was aware of that and planned to get it done in the near future. He said that they grade the majority of Town roads each year.

DOT has issued its Capital Plan. This covers deployment and Mass Pike status among many other topics. We will request an electronic copy.

6. T. Drugmand reported that the Community Compact meeting on inter-town shared services that she had planned to attend last week had been cancelled.
7. An informational meeting on the Eden Glen dam will be held as part of the regular Selectmen's meeting in early August. It will be announced in the August Tracks. J. Huebner reported that we had submitted a proposal to the Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) requesting funds to remove the dam. The Town had been advised by both Westfield Wild and Scenic and DER that funding for dam removal was likely, but not for restoration or repair. Even though the Town had voted YES at the 10/26/15 STM to restore the dam and Eden Glen area, at the ATM on May 11 , 2016 the Town voted NO to appropriating any funds for the restoration and maintenance of Eden Glen area and Dam.

Before proceeding with removal we must, by law, vote to rescind the earlier vote. If funding for restoration and maintenance is found, we can

then go back to the voters for a final decision on the dam. Brief discussion on the pros and cons of removing vs. restoring the dam followed.

8. Kent Lew reported that he had spoken to Eversource requesting that they turn on the power to the Town Park again. They had turned the power off last fall per his request. They informed him that the Town would have to pay for an electrical inspection before they would re-connect us. The 2.5 months of electrical charges we saved by disconnecting were hardly worth the paperwork and now inspection charges we will incur to repeat this process again in this fall. The Board agreed.
9. K. Lew briefly convened a Finance Committee meeting as part of the Selectmen's Meeting. The subject of revolving accounts was discussed. Due to unexpectedly large receipts from electrical inspections the Finance Committee determined that we need to raise the cap from \$1000 to \$2500. The FinCom voted unanimously to raise the cap and J. Huebner then made a motion to raise the cap which was approved unanimously by the Select Board.
10. S. Nelson, Washington Delegate to WiredWest, told the Board that he submitted the Town's paperwork required by MBI for our broadband readiness assessment last week. MBI confirmed its receipt. We still have to deal with a list of documentation which is required by bond counsel. K. Lew, our alternate delegate to WiredWest, is working with Allison to gather this information. We have to be very careful that our submissions are complete, timely and accurate or we risk de-railing the process and losing our position in the first rank of towns to move into the make-ready phase of building the network. MBI still has to come to grips with the legitimacy of the WiredWest coop structure, but in the meantime we have to show that we are ready to move forward.
11. Administrative Assistant J. Hostetter submitted her updated list of Town Appointees for Select Board review. J. Huebner made a motion to accept

the list as amended. Tricia Drugmand seconded and the list was accepted unanimously. The Board requested that J. Hostetter prepare the list next time alphabetically by last, rather than first, names.

12. Tricia Drugmand said that we should plan to hold an Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee meeting quarterly as we have to work at raising funds to cover future awards. The other members of the Select Board agreed with her. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter (also a member of the Scholarship Committee) to check by-laws about Emma Bailey meeting requirements and funding structure.
13. Tax Collector Sandra Cameron urged the Board to seriously consider moving to quarterly tax payments as it would greatly help cash flow. The Board will take this subject up at the July 18 meeting.
14. The Board conducted performance reviews with J. Nelson and J. Hostetter.
15. J. Huebner briefly mentioned the following:
  - a. There will be no Selectmen's Dinner in Lanesborough .
  - b. There have been reports of repeated vandalism in the Town Hall rest rooms.
  - c. Kent Lew reported that he has been sworn in as Alternate WiredWest Delegate.
  - d. J. Huebner sent a letter to the state Office of Disability informing them that no residents have expressed interest in starting a Town disability organization.
  - e. Jan Paxton- Huebner has volunteered to be Town Arbovirus monitor.
  - f. We need another Conservation Committee member.
  - g. The Town still needs to have an audit done.
  - h. We received a report on Berkshire cancer incidence.

- i. Thanks to Steve Deloye for stepping up as the new Director of the COA. Thanks to Jeff Sawtelle for all of his work for our seniors while he held that position.
- j. No news on Veterans' Memorial or on cemetery.
- k. Notice from Lenox ZBA. Decision on 43 King William Rd. Special permit for deck granted
- l. Notice from Lenox ZBA. Hearing 65 Willow Creek Rd. 7/6
- m. Notice from Lenox ZBA. Hearing on 18 Morgan Street. 7/6
- n. Notice from Lenox ZBA. Hearing on 96 Walker St. 7/6
- o. Notice from Pittsfield. Decision on 220 Cloverdale St. Approved according to conditions.
- p. ZBA hearing on 665 Tyler St. continued until 7/20.

16.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson



