

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at the Washington Town Hall

August 15, 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. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 8, 2016. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. **Receipts/Rewards:** The Board reported receiving a check in the amount of \$157.60 from Waste Management for our recyclables. Our insurer, MIIA, notified the Board that we have earned \$ 127.00 in reward credits which can be used for several types of benefits including small grants for personnel management tools and for numerous skill-building courses.
4. **Highway Department:** The Army Corps of Engineers, representatives of Westfield Wild and Scenic and the contractor all attended the August 11 on-site meeting on Cross Place Road culvert. There was general agreement that the project would be completed by the end of fall. There was discussion of moving the Bailey bridge over and using it as a by-pass for residents of the road instead of building a surface by-pass. The Bailey bridge option is only possible if Verizon's plans to move electrical poles to the other side of the road coincide with the construction.

T. Johnson reported that at an earlier on-site meeting that same day on Blotz road, paving is planned to start on August 29. The road will remain open throughout the paving. He also mentioned that the Town may be able to save some money on that job if we are able to pave at a slight angle to better control drainage. This project should be completed by the end of

September. Ten days will be needed for the whole project. Paving should be done in one day.

P. Clark told the Board that the Middlefield Road project will have to wait until next Year. We have no word from DOT on using the existing abutments. M. Case mentioned that the Governor signed a document creating a small bridge funding program. This could possibly assist us in rebuilding Middlefield Road bridge. J. Huebner asked P. Clark for a copy of the MASSWORKS proposal he wrote for the Town a few years ago.

Per M. Wiley's request, Tom Johnson checked her mailbox on Washington Mountain Road. He found no problems with the mailbox.

5. **Eden Glen** : Phil Clark updated the Select Board on the status of the FEMA/MEMA culvert project on Frost Road. The new road over the culvert will be thirty-eight feet wide by state regulations and ten feet high. There will be a uniform slope through that section of the road. Two lanes of traffic can be accommodated. The curvature of the road will be the same. The culvert will be in line with the road and the stream. There will be guard rails. Slope stabilization will use boulders that are on-site. More boulders will be added if needed to accommodate the 30' wide culvert. Driveways will blend to the new road elevation. The elevation will be 3-4 feet higher than now. Poles will have to be relocated.

He estimates that the road will be closed for 2 – 3 months. Work will begin this fall. October 1<sup>st</sup> is the target and they are trying to get permission to work later into the winter than originally scheduled. The road may be a gravel road over the winter. Bids open in 2 weeks. Our schedule depends to some degree on the contractor's availability. We can delay the start until next spring if absolutely necessary. Heather Anello cautioned P. Clark about the extra work closed roads cause the Highway Department in the winter. The road work does not preclude a swimming hole. There is a traffic control plan. The contractor will keep access open for residents.

J. Huebner said that we need to move ahead as quickly as possible. We are limited in what we can do under the grant. On December 31, 2017 the grant ends. P. Clark is pressing DOT to get things going.

6. **Dry Hydrant/Fire Pond:** P. Clark has had experience on a dry hydrant project for the town of Egremont. In such a project you channel the stream into a big pipe upstream. The Egremont project was unsuccessful for a number of reasons, but the basic problem is that in piped-in streams with a high flow of water you get heavy sedimentation plugging up the pipe and that eventually causes the pipe to rupture. Eden glen would have the same problem as the flow would be high and there would be much sedimentation. We really need a pond ten feet deep, not 2 feet deep, in which we could suspend the pipe off the stream floor and out of the sediment.
  
7. **Car Show:** Heather Anello wanted the Board to know that she has been working with Nicole Miller of the Becket Police planning the catering and music for the October 1<sup>st</sup> Car Show and childrens' benefit at the Town Park. She has also spoken with Dave Drugmand of the Park Committee. Show cars will be parked in the Ball field. She will have a temporary liquor license for the event. Beer and wine will be served in moderation. Food will probably be served from the gazebo. She will talk to Vera about food inspection and to Jodi about permits. Heather plans to have lots of attendants assisting the public.
  
8. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that he had tried repeatedly to reach Mr. Witter by phone regarding his illegal dumping behind Woody's on RJ Peltier's land. Mr. Witter didn't return any of the messages which Chief Breen left. The Board instructed him to send a certified letter to Mr. Witter informing him that he must cease and desist in his illegal dumping immediately and must remove the material he has dumped in Town. M.

Case asked Chief Breen to call the DEP to find out what we can fine him for. He is to report to the Board on this issue next week.

Some traffic problems had been reported at the recent funeral on Washington Mountain Road at the Old Town Hall. There was no police presence at the site directing traffic. As a result of this there was confusion at first as people arrived and tried to find parking. Chief Breen told the Board that he was sick that day and could not cover the funeral. He agreed with the Board that under the circumstances he should have arranged for another officer to direct traffic and will make sure that such a situation doesn't reoccur.

The cemetery is close to running out of space. There are only 20 to 25 grave sites left. There is still no response from Pittsfield to our request for the promised 5 acres of land for cemetery use.

9. **COA:** There will be a dinner at Town Hall for all seniors on Friday, August 19 at 5:30. We will cook out if weather permits.
10. **Veterans' Services:** J. Huebner reported that the Town had received the signed contract from the City of Pittsfield confirming that they have agreed to provide services to the Town's veterans.
11. **WiredWest:** S. Nelson reported that we have received the invoice from Verizon for our pole attachment fees. The Board asked him to get a check cut by the Treasurer in payment. We are still expecting pole surveys to begin this fall.
12. **Public Notices:** From the Town of Dalton - Notice of a Meeting Date change for the discussion of GE's special permit application to build a large scale solar array in town off Bridal Road. Meeting date changed to Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall at 462 Main Street.; Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals notice for the property at 1 Crystal St.

Owners seek to change a pre-existing non-conforming use from a gas station to a home heating oil business. Meeting to be held August 17, 2016 at Town Hall at 7:00pm.; Westfield Wild and Scenic meeting notice for September including August minutes received.

13. **Personnel:** The Select Board conducted Town Accountant Dan Parnell's performance review.

14.J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson