

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

August 22, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board of Selectmen 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 August 15, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Open Forum for Residents:** Linda Levernoch of Summit Hill Road asked the Board about the status of the Summit Hill bridge construction project. The Board told her that the bid opening will take place later this month. Construction will not begin until next spring.
4. **Cultural Council:** Denise Johns, long time member and current Chair of the Washington Cultural Council, announced that she will be stepping down from her position. She is required to do so by state regulations, although she can serve again after a period of time. With her resignation the Council will still have the requisite number of members to continue. She told the Board that the Council has received much support from the state. The Council works by reviewing grant information, proposing or choosing appropriate programs then applying for state funding. This process has worked easily. Our budget is about \$4000 per year. Becket receives the same funding. Many of the programs are for the benefit of the Becket/Washington School.

She told the Board that the Council is very supportive of the regionalization efforts being pursued by many area towns. They may wish to combine their efforts formally with Becket's. To do so requires the approval of Select Boards from both towns. The two Councils have worked closely

together for years on successful programs for the school such as field trips and ukulele lessons for our students. Recently the Washington Cultural Council contributed funds to the Becket Washington Community Council, the Mullen House and Becket Athenaeum. If the two towns merged Cultural Councils we would have \$8000 to spend together. T. Drugmand and J. Huebner both encouraged the Cultural Council to develop more programs for seniors as they comprise a large percentage of both towns' populations. The Board suggested that the Cultural Council reach out to former members for their ideas about merging and offered to put an appeal for input in Tracks. Next summer would be the next grant cycle.

- 5. Police:** Chief Breen called State Police when a truck recently drove into Ken Walls' driveway and sheared off his driveway poles. Chief Breen mentioned that he has been trained in administering Narcan, the drug which saves opioid users' lives. He keeps a supply of the drug on hand. Regarding the illegal dumping behind Woody's Chief Breen reported making several additional phone calls to Mr. Witter, the property owner. None of these was answered. He also sent a registered letter to Mr. Witter and has had no reply yet.

Regarding vocational education transportation needs. He has received word that Jackie Guthrie will attend Smith Vocational in the fall. Annie Guthrie will drive her daughter to the "bus stop" in Becket thereby saving Washington about \$850 monthly. Chief Breen will transport 2 Vocational students going to McCann. One is from Becket. Chief Breen will be responsible for distributing any new access key cards as he has in the past. We are currently out of them. Any new cards will be shipped to his attention and will be remotely activated. Existing cards should not be affected.

- 6. WiredWest:** S. Nelson reported that an undated and unsigned document has been circulated in the broadband community which describes an MBI policy to further weaken the cooperative effort of WiredWest towns by

blocking their ability to oversee or control how the state spends their money, while rewarding towns which choose to “go it alone”. He will make inquiries through our MBI liaison to verify the origin and intent of this document. Other towns are likewise expressing concern.

- 7. Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter reported speaking with Heather Anello about all permits needed for the car show. She is completing efforts with Allison to add elected officials to the Town Appointments spreadsheet. Allison will confirm that information and check for accuracy over the next few days. J. Hostetler told the Board that she had received a list by pole number of certain Town trees from Eversource . She will get that list to Craig Willis as he must respond to Eversource. She told J. Huebner that if we need to respond to a flooding emergency on Upper Valley Road the beaver control permit will be # 24. There was brief discussion of how best to dispose of the old, broken wooden meeting chairs. Adding them to the Pumpkin Walk bonfire was suggested.
- 8. Board of Health:** The Board of Health has closed the swimming pool at Summit Hill campground for non-compliance with state minimum standards for swimming pools. V. Cormier will do the necessary inspecting at the Sons and Daughters Reunion next month. Our fall free flu clinic will take place at Town Hall on October 3 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. J. Hostetter was asked whether the Town has a complete set of well permit regulations. Board of Health member V. Cormier bought a printer for \$123.00 to support the work of the Board of Health. J. Huebner made a motion to reimburse her for this expense. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously. If the Board of Health members spend any appreciable amount of time checking files they are to be reimbursed from the Administrative Assistants’ budget. They must keep track of their time spent if they are to be paid. J. Huebner asked the Board of Health to contact Ernie Lampron to determine if he still has any BOH documents and if so to return them to the Town.

- 9. Veterans' Memorial:** Chief Breen told the Board that he spoke with Eyal Shapira about his interest in the memorial. He responded that he is extremely busy at this time but will be available again in a while. Sean Conners suggested that Chief Breen investigate granite available at the Becket quarry. Chief Breen will follow up.
- 10. Town Scholarships:** Linda Levernoch and T. Drugmand agreed to meet in September to discuss the status of the two Town scholarships and to explore the idea of merging them.
- 11. Highway Department:** T. Johnson confirmed that Washington Mountain Road (WMR) is on schedule for completion at the end of September as planned. Regarding Blotz Road, he confirmed that work to date at that site has been done by the Town crew. The road will be dug up by the contractor, HMA, starting on August 29th. Following that, they will lay down blacktop. T. Johnson showed the Board contracts from HMA which were not itemized. In light of this, J. Huebner decided to hold the contracts until HMA clarified the costs. He added language to the contracts to protect the Town's interests. At a meeting with HMA on 8/11 it was agreed that they would improve existing drainage. Accordingly, he made a motion to sign the contracts "in consideration of project scope changes made on 8/11." T. Drugmand seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The Board signed the contracts and the Clerk notarized them. They will be held until we receive cost clarification from HMA.
- 12. Eden Glen:** The Board will hold off paying P. Clark for work done to date on the dam pending further discussion. He has not sent the MASSWORKS grant information requested at the last Select Board meeting.
- 13. Briefly noted:** M. Case told the Board that the DCR Commissioner will tour October Mountain State Forest later this week and that Governor Baker will be in the Berkshires on Thursday, 8/24.; We have no news from Pittsfield on the additional cemetery land.; T. Drugmand brought to the Board's

attention an article in Berkshire Edge magazine about the Community Compact and the movement toward shared services; D. Benham will seek legal assistance to consult the Registry of Deeds regarding right of way to use road for logging; From Pittsfield, Notice of Vote for Churchill Solar continued to Sept. 7 at 7:00pm in City Council Chambers; From Pittsfield, Notice of Decision regarding Burton Johnson’s petition to keep no more than 6 chickens for personal use. No roosters allowed. After a hearing on July 20 the petition was approved.; From Pittsfield, Notice of Decision on petition of Khem Organics for a special permit to allow a registered medical marijuana dispensary at 6 Lyric Street. Permission was granted pending receipt of the required license from the Department of Health.; From Pittsfield, Notice of Vote regarding Cafua Realty Trust request to extend business district 50 feet north at 665 Tyler Street and 75 Plunkett Street. Board of Appeals denied request; From Pittsfield, Notice of Vote regarding 881 Holmes Road on J. Macht’s petition for a special permit to construct a 166 KW ground mounted solar array at that location. Special permit was granted. ; From Lenox, ZBA there will be a meeting on 9/7/16 at 7:00pm at Town Hall to consider petition of Frank Tabakin for property at 33 Hubbard St. to extend existing front porch. ; From Lenox, ZBA meeting on 9/7/16 at 7:30 pm at Town Hall regarding property of Navin Shah at 462 Pittsfield Road. Mr. Shah seeks permit to convert storage space at the Motel to 2 studio apartments for employees of the motel.

14. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson