

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

July 29, 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 August 22, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Assessor's Office:** M. Jarvie requested the Board's approval to hold the classification hearing on September 12th. The Board agreed and scheduled the meeting for 8:00pm.
4. **Open forum for Residents:** M. Case mentioned that the K9 Karnival, which will be presented by Ozzie's Steak and Eggs, Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic and Beantown DockDogs will be held again this year on September 17 and 18. There will be a dunk tank again to raise funds to fight canine cancer. Residents can register their dogs onsite to participate in the fun.

J. Hostetter asked the Board why the Town cannot use Eden Glen pond as a dry hydrant water source for the fire department. Phil Clark explained that in order for a pond to function as a dry hydrant a long pipe must be installed upstream, under the surface of the water and mounted on posts that raise it some feet above the stream bed and pond floor. The pipe must be supported and raised up like this all the way to the pond or it will fill with silt and debris and rupture. Our pond is not deep enough to use this scheme and the trucks would have a hard time getting water out.

5. **Selectmens' Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion to accept the September Monthly Selectmen's letter as written. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The letter will be emailed to Lisa Guthrie for publication in Tracks.

6. **Schools:** M. Case, our representative on the school Board, reported that the Education Task Force has been meeting and has decided to hire grant-funded consultants to research some of the critical issues facing CBRSD and the towns that fund our regional school district.

7. **Highway Department:** T. Johnson told the Board that CSX will take down the water level at **Upper Valley Road**. We will need to trap the beavers there. Regarding **Washington Mountain Road** (WMR), Baltazar expects to reach **Frost Road** tomorrow. WMR will be closed between Frost Road and Becket. Some seepage has been discovered from old pipes which are buried deep, but DOT has expressed confidence in their drainage plan.

Concerning other highway projects, paving equipment is on **Blotz Road** now. HMA is doing the paving. The contractor for **Cross Place** culvert has ordered materials. They will be ready to start soon. They hope to be able to move the Bailey bridge into position to provide temporary access for residents, but that depends on Verizon moving phone poles to the other side of the road as they previously planned. This would save time and money. However, if timing does not work out, the contractor will construct a temporary access road as originally planned. **Eden Glen** bid opening will take place on September 12 at 7:30. M. Case, reporting again on the Governor's remarks, said that there should be more money for MassWorks grants this year. J. Huebner and P. Clark will work on our grant submission. We will also speak to DOT on the small bridges program. J. Huebner made a motion that we accept any grant money we get for **Middlefield Bridge**. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously. We will hold a public meeting requested by Eversource on October 17th at 7:30 to vote on granting permission for Eversource to relocate poles to facilitate construction of the **Summit Hill Bridge**. We will use Tracks and sandwich boards to get the announcement out.

- 8. Broadband:** S. Nelson told the Board that we should shortly receive our green light letter from bond counsel, a key step in the process toward pole survey. He has been in touch with MBI liaison Bill Ennis who confirmed that Washington is on schedule with filing required paperwork. M. Case added that he had heard Governor Baker say last week that the subject of broadband is rapidly becoming one of his priorities.
- 9. Historical Commission:** The Commission will be opening the Old South Center School (the Little Red Schoolhouse) on Washington Mountain Road before the Sons & Daughters Reunion on September 11 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Originally built in 1888, the exterior of the building has been restored and maintained by Ed Bond and his expert contractors. Visitors will see that the interior, though still in rough condition, has great potential.
- 10. Election Preparation:** The Clerk presented the Board with the warrant for the Wednesday, September 8th Massachusetts Democratic primary. The Board signed the warrant
- 11. Police:** Regarding the illegal dumping behind Woody's on Route 8, Chief Breen told the Board that he had received by return mail the registered letter he had sent to Woodard Witter, owner of the Woody's property. He asked the Board what his next steps in getting the debris removed should be. The Board advised that he consult Paul Greene, our building inspector and also to contact the DEP about the situation. We can file a complaint and take Mr. Witter to court. Chief Breen is also working on ordering some new access cards (electronic keys) for the Town Hall, as our old supply has run out. The Board emphasized the need for key control. He must keep a list of all persons who are given keys. The goal is to reduce the number of keys in circulation.
- 12. Veterans' Memorial:** Per the Board's suggestion, Chief Breen visited the Becket Granite Company to inquire about our options and the cost of

various types of memorial stones. He learned that we have many options and most of them are expensive. The Board told him that they should not be involved in decisions about the possible memorial. We need a committee to take on this responsibility. Chief Breen also met with Eyal Shapira of Pugzee's Farm who told him that, though he is too busy at present, he wants to be part of the memorial committee and repeated his offer to donate \$1000 to the cause.

13. Car Show: J. Hostetter researched the ABCC's requirements for beverage licenses as pertains to the car show and explained the process to the Board. If the caterer has her own license she does not need to apply for a one day special license. If she does not have such a license, she must apply to the Town for a one-day license; provide proof of liquor liability insurance and all other certifications required by state law. As the car show is a fundraiser co-sponsored by Becket and Washington, Becket shared its Alcoholic beverage license application with us. After reviewing the document, the Board decided to adopt its provisions. J. Huebner made a motion to this effect. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously. We will charge \$50 for a beer and wine one day license and \$100 for liquor. Upon signing we can decide to waive the fee.

14. Town Scholarships: T. Drugmand discussed with Dick Spencer setting a date and time in September on a Monday at 6:30 for a meeting of the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee and Linda Levernoch of the Town Scholarship to discuss merging the two funds. She suggested September 19th. D. Spencer was supportive of this date as it does not conflict with Finance Committee meetings.

15. Administrative Assistants: J. Huebner recognized J. Hostetter's hard work updating the Appointed and Elected listings spreadsheet. T. Drugmand asked J. Hostetter to add her name to the Conservation Commission appointee list for a 3 year term starting in June 2016. J. Hostetter told the Board that the last performance review has been completed. J. Huebner

thanked her for researching well regulations. New ones will be coming up. She mentioned that she had replenished our supply of beach stickers from the Becket Town Hall.

16. Brief Items: There will be no Select Board meeting next Monday, September 5 – Labor Day ; There will be a meeting of the Porchlight Fall Prevention class on Wednesday, September 7th at 10:00am. Remember to vote Thursday, September 8 in the Massachusetts Democratic Primary ; There will be an HCOG meeting on September 29 in Northampton; P. Mikaniewicz approved adding the 12 broken wooden chairs to the Pumpkin Walk bonfire.

17. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson