

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

September 19, 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 September 12, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Police:** Chief Breen reported that he has had a reply from Mr. Witter to our letters demanding that he remove the debris he has illegally dumped behind Woody's on Route 8. Mr. Witter is asking to have all the details of our complaint in writing. Chief Breen will provide correspondence to the Board; T. Drugmand will provide MGL and Town by-law references to J. Huebner who will request follow up from Building Inspector Paul Greene and consult with Town Counsel.

Chief Breen also reported that plans for the Pumpkin Walk are all set. The Board signed the permit for the Pumpkin Walk prepared by J. Hostetter. M. Case asked if the Becket Police department will be taking responsibility for security at the October 1<sup>st</sup> Car Show in the Town Park. As the Becket Police Department is putting on the event Washington should not be providing any security services including directing traffic. Chief Breen will confirm arrangements with the Becket Police Department. The caterer has been issued a One Day Liquor License by the Town of Washington.

4. **Highway Department:** J. Huebner said that he had spoken with CSX about the flooding on Upper Valley Road. They will meet T. Johnson at the site tomorrow. T. Drugmand suggested that he have a smart phone to document this discussion including taking pictures of the problem area. J. Huebner confirmed that Ms. Francisca Heming is the new Director of Division One DOT based in Lenox. Kathy Stevens of DOT has said that the

Town will not be reimbursed for any work performed by P. Clark's firm since it is not qualified to receive state funds. P. Clark denies this. J. Huebner said that we must keep the Town out of the middle of this potential dispute. P. Clark will appeal two or three management layers higher than K. Stevens for a final decision. He is confident that the issue will be settled in his favor. He is not stopping work. Public hearings on all the pole work will be held at Town Hall at 7:30 on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

T. Johnson will do the Chapter 90 Study next week. J. Huebner will discuss it with him then. J. Huebner gave P. Clark a copy of a letter received at Town Hall from the Army Corps of Engineers about our intent to replace an existing culvert. Baltazar is doing guard rail work on Washington Mountain Road this week. The Town will take the guard rail sections Baltazar discards as scrap metal for re-cycling. The concrete barriers are only temporary. The road will receive another two layers of asphalt. Baltazar still expects to be finished by the end of October. Blotz Road will have lines painted by the second week in October. Fog lines will be added.

5. **Eden Glen Dam:** P. Clark met with a representative of the state Department of Environmental Restoration (DER) last week at the Frost Road site. This visit was required by our application to DER for funding to remove the dam. No issues were discussed. M. Case reminded the Board that the state has funds to remove dams, not to repair them. T. Drugmand said that she had met with a representative of Westfield Wild and Scenic on this topic and gave J. Huebner some printed information from that meeting.
6. **Board of Health:** Vera Cormier told the Board that she had learned that the Board of Health files must be kept locked. Regarding the perk test on Lovers Lane she said that our agent was there to witness the test and will collect the fee for the Town. J. Huebner had received the Temporary Food Handling License application for the Pumpkin Walk and gave that to V. Cormier for filing.

- 7. Emma Bailey Scholarship:** T. Drugmand reported that the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee had met to discuss the possibility of merging with the Washington Scholarship Committee chaired by Linda Levernoch. The Washington Scholarship Committee made it clear that they did not want the merger. Discussion followed about the possibility of placing a small insert in our tax bill envelopes making an appeal for scholarship donations. . M. Case made a motion that we place a fund-raising insert in our tax bill envelopes. J. Huebner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. T. Drugmand suggested we wait until Spring to do this and in the interim investigate the legalities. Tax Collector Sandra Cameron did not think the inserts would be a problem.
- 8. Tax Collector:** As Sue McGrath, our assistant to the Tax Collector has given her notice, the Board discussed whether to seek her replacement immediately or to ask Sandra to work on her own for a while and see how that goes. We do not want to develop the collections backlog we struggled with a few years ago. S. Cameron did not think she would have a problem working on her own but agreed that it would be prudent to have someone trained as her back up for those times she might have to be away from the office. The Selectmen asked her to speak with Treasurer Glenn Grogan and the Assessors about backing her up should that be necessary.
- 9. Veterans' Memorial:** The Board asked Chief Breen to talk with Peter Blake about his availability and to schedule a Memorial Committee meeting. Eyal Shapira had told the Board that he would also be available to meet after 9/17. Chief Breen should follow up with him.
- 10. WiredWest:** J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from the Selectmen of Heath signed by their 3 Board members. The letter was a strongly worded criticism of MBI's policy of underwriting the payment of about 80% of Comcast's costs in bringing broadband to its partially served towns while only underwriting about 35% of the costs to wire non-cable towns like

Washington, Heath and other unserved or underserved towns in western Mass. Kent Lew took the letter and will research the numbers further.

**11.Forest products reimbursement:** K. Lew told the Board that the Town had received \$14,440 from Pittsfield in payment for logging in our watershed. He had been told that there would not be much stumpage in the near future as they would be focusing elsewhere.

**12.Brief items:** Head Start has agreed to take away the playground equipment from the rear of the Town Hall. They will not take the old shed.

**13.Records search:** The Administrative Assistants will do the records search requested by Lillian Fox for her husband's review.

**14.** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson