

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

September 26, 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 September 19th. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the October Monthly Selectmen's Letter. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. **Washington Mountain Road Residents:** T. Drugmand reported that Baltazar will consult with each resident of WMR on paving at the end of their driveway. Baltazar will also speak with Patricia Thornton about her concerns regarding drainage and mailbox position.
5. **Administrative Assistants:** J.Huebner reviewed the process for finalizing and distributing the Select Board's minutes and the Action Items for follow up tasks. J. Nelson confirmed that the information on the Washington Mountain Road (WMR) construction requested by Lillian Fox had been organized and provided to her.
6. **Transfer Station:** The Town's contract with Covanta was reviewed and signed.
7. **Treasurer – Payroll Issues:** Treasurer Glenn Grogan discussed with the Board several issues that had recently come to light concerning sick days, vacation days and the accrual of those benefits by the Highway Department. These benefits can be difficult to track. He discovered that the payroll company had failed to withhold sufficient funds for Tom Johnson. Tom was overpaid by \$380 which he repaid in cash during the

meeting to avoid having excess deductions from his pay. Tom also apologized for any friction between him and Glenn. He assured G. Grogan that his remarks to him were not meant to be personal. Frustration was expressed by both parties.

The Treasurer told the Board that he wished to resign. The Board urged him to reconsider, expressing their appreciation for the excellent work he has done for the Town. T. Drugmand asked him to think the matter over for 2 weeks. The Board echoed her advice and did not accept his resignation.

G. Grogan told the Board that the accrual process is hard to track using the provisions set forth in the personnel manual. He has it set up correctly in the system now. The Board asked him to draft better language on accruals for their review. They told T. Johnson that in the future he should come to them with any complaints. J. Huebner asked G. Grogan to send the accrual dates to the highway crew as of this date. J. Huebner made a motion to end the transition period between the weekly and biweekly payroll immediately. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Board asked G. Grogan to track his work and hours over the next two weeks to see if he needs help. If he does need help, they will find it for him.

- 8. Car Show:** Dave Drugmand and Nicole Miller, Becket Police officer, addressed the Board about rain date plans for the upcoming car show scheduled for October 1st. The weather forecast appears to be a wet one. They do have the option of using October 2nd as a rain day. If faced with intermittent showers, alternatives were discussed for parking the show cars and handling the food service. D. Drugmand inquired about parking some of the show cars on the gravel near the Highway building. Discussion followed about whether there would be enough room there and how disruptive that might be to the operation of the Transfer Station. There was also discussion about how best to clean the gazebo for food service. Power washing may be needed. Becket Police will provide all traffic direction, parking and security service needed.

9. Police: Chief Breen met with Dynamark Security to review our options for a new Town Hall secure access system. The simplest way to proceed would be to cancel all of the current keys and reissue new ones with tight control over distribution and careful record-keeping. We would also change the door locks and charge anyone who loses a card key \$20.00 for a replacement. People will have to sign the cards. The Board asked Chief Breen to write up the details of a new key card policy. Estimated cost for 100 cards would be \$500. M. Case said we won't need anything close to that number of keys. He said that key control is the most important aspect of this change.

10. Veterans' Memorial Committee: J. Huebner urged Chief Breen to continue to speak with Eyal Shapira about his involvement with the Memorial Committee and next steps to be taken.

11. CBRSD: J. Huebner mentioned receiving a letter from the Superintendent asking to schedule an update meeting.

12. Highway Department: T. Johnson gave the CH 90 survey to J. Huebner. He reported speaking to Hinsdale about the condition of Plunkett Reservoir Road. Hinsdale will take care of the culvert and deep ditch problems there. Blotz Road will be line painted in 2 weeks. There is no news on Cross Place Road. In light of information from Kathy Stevens at DOT we have to look carefully at how we are using state funds, including CH 90. There is also question about whether Horizon Consulting Services is certified to do the work on Frost and Cross Place Roads. J. Huebner will draft a long email to P. Clark about this issue. There were questions about his surveying Blotz Road and who should pay for that work. M. Case said that he is happy with the quality of P. Clark's work, but he must get on the state list. The construction costs must be covered. T. Johnson said that the flooding on Upper Valley Road has ended. He gave a check for \$25.00 from Emily Lyndsey to the Board for a curb cut on Lovers Lane. T. Johnson said that he

will be picking up much of the hay wattles from Blotz and Washington Mountain Roads. He could bring it to the Transfer Station and the Town could offer it free to residents.

13. **Illegal Dumping:** Per the Board's request Chief Breen has given the letters he received from Mr. Witter about his illegal dumping behind Woody's to T. Drugmand. She researched the relevant MGL citations and concluded that the Chief has authority to be involved in this effort to force Mr. Witter to remove the debris. Next we need Paul Greene, our building inspector, to make a formal written complaint under MGL.
14. **Broadband:** K. Lew told the Board that the Town has finished its readiness submission to MBI. Our MBI liaison, Todd Corcoran, will send a letter of recommendation. We expect to have our Memorandum of Agreement on Monday and to hold our position toward the front of the line for pole survey work. K. Lew mentioned that Axia, the company which built the "middle mile" of broadband connecting libraries, schools, town halls and other municipal buildings, has been bought out by a larger company and wants to get into the regional network business. Whether western Mass will be a large enough market for them is still unclear. There will be a public hearing. K. Lew and S. Nelson will follow up on these developments.
15. **Meetings:** There will be a Hampshire County Selectmens' association dinner meeting on September 29 in Northampton at 5: 30 at the Blue Bonnet Diner. The Annual Berkshire County Selectmens' Association Dinner will be held on October 20 at the Greenock Country Club. On October 14 there will be a Legislative Breakfast in North Adams.
16. **Public Hearings:** on October 17 at 7:30 at Town Hall there will be public hearings for Eversource pole relocation on Summit Hill/Upper Valley, Frost Road and Cross Place Road. Abutters have been notified.

17. **Brief Items:** J. Huebner announced that he has been re-appointed to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of BRPC as southeast delegate; No news on the cemetery land from Pittsfield; On October 3rd there will be a FREE flu clinic at Town Hall from 5 – 7; The Selectmen will not meet on 10/10 in observance of Columbus Day.

18. M. Case made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. J. Huebner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted:

Jan Nelson