

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen in Washington Town Hall

October 3, 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 26, 2016. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Board of Health:** J. Huebner described changes taking place in Board of Health procedures. That Board will be assuming some of the administrative duties formerly shared with the Administrative Assistant. The goal of the BOH will be to make processes more efficient. Their first project will be to reorganize and update BOH files. They will maintain a secure desk in the meeting room outside the Administrative Assistant's office. All BOH files will be kept confidential in that room in locked file cabinets. The old file cabinets in that room will be removed to the metal bin. J. Huebner said that he will schedule a BOH meeting for October 17 or 24th.
4. **Assessors:** The entire Assessors Department appeared before the Select Board to discuss the Board's potential need to cross train part-time support for the Tax Collector and /or Treasurer. At the September 26th meeting the Select Board had asked Greg Viner of the Assessors if he would be interested in such a part time position. K. Avalor, Assessor Consultant, informed the Board tonight that the state generally considers an assessor working also in tax collection to be a conflict of interest. An Assessor working with the Treasurer is also questionable. The Select Board thanked the Assessors for this information. They also thanked Greg Viner for considering their offer, but will withdraw it.

K. Avalor also told the Board that the state will be issuing new software for Tax Collector and Assessors in the not too distant future. She did not know

if there would be any up front costs connected with this for the Town. She also told the Board that she needs last year's building permits from the Building Inspector. This should be an ongoing process. As Paul Greene has had serious health issues recently she has not wanted to bother him. The Board encouraged her to call him.

5. **Car Show:** Officer Nicole Miller of the Becket Police reported to the Board that despite the occasionally showery weather, the Car Show was a success. Funds raised for the children's Holiday Party were \$2500. Morale was high among volunteers and both exhibitors and attendees had a good time. D. Drugmand added that the clean-up effort at the end of the Show was excellent. Officer Miller told the Board that she will know the date of the Holiday Party shortly and will let them know so that the information can go into the November Tracks.
6. **Bridges:** Jody Lampro told the Board that he has been doing some research on the subject of towns buying pre-fabricated bridges instead of building new ones from scratch. The cost savings achieved by using the new technology are significant. He gave the Board a newspaper clipping he had on the subject. He mentioned as an example the successful installation of such a bridge by the town of Monterey in South County. He was interested in contacting Lee Selectman David Consolati, who has some expertise on the subject, and inviting him to come speak to our Board about pre-fabricated bridges. The Board encouraged him to do so. M. Case added that Washington is in favor of this new bridge technology, but DOT is not. J. Huebner reported that he has sent our application for the Middlefield Road Bridge reconstruction to DOT for funding under the new Small Bridge Program. We have also applied for a MassWorks grant for the Middlefield Road Bridge.
7. **Highway:** J. Huebner completed the Chapter 90 Survey and passed it on. There was brief discussion of the road survey update. J. Huebner asked if T. Johnson will attend a meeting on October 13th about the StreetScan service

which surveys roads with an x-ray type technology for about \$200 per mile. Blotz Road is on schedule for line painting. There is no news still on Cross Place Road. Work on moving poles there will be considered at the public hearing on October 17th at 7:30 in Town Hall.

8. **Bid Opening for Frost Road MEMA project:** At 7:30 J. Huebner opened bids as scheduled on the agenda, including a bid submitted later by J. Hostetter. It was delivered to her home before the 7:30 deadline. The 7 bids were as follows.

Baltazar: \$944,140.00

Clayton D. Davenport: \$ 832,132.00

Virgilio: \$823,572.02

BT & L: \$ 815,843.00

Northern Construction: \$ 747,535.00

SUMCO Echo Contracting: \$ 737,454.00

Maximillian: \$ 699,598.00 - Low Bid

P. Clark and T. Johnson will review the bids. We will have to see if the low bid fits our budget under the FEMA agreement. P. Clark thought it would. After studying the bids he will make a recommendation to the Board. One of the important issues is whether or not the bids will still be good next spring when work will begin. The Town is responsible for 25% of the total cost. P. Clark added that the engineering work is complete as is the construction cost estimate.

9. **Wired West/Broadband:** S. Nelson told the Board that he had received our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from MBI. He submitted the document to Chair, J. Huebner who signed the MOA. This done, Washington is now qualified and in line to begin pole survey work. Our MBI liaison Todd Corcoran had written our Letter of Recommendation to reflect the current somewhat ambiguous status of the MBI process. Many towns, including Washington, have agreed to move forward as independent entities ready

and able to own and operate their networks, while fully intending and only able to go forward as part of a regional jointly owned and operated network. There is very little in this MOA which binds us to anything. MBI seems anxious to get something done and the first step in building the network is the pole survey. MBI pays for each town's survey. They surrendered the right to "claw back" any of that money if a town decided not to work with them. The survey results belong to the towns and we can use them with another provider. We will get our survey start date when MBI receives our MOA.

In the meantime the private sector has gotten very interested in opportunities to develop western Mass for broadband. Both network builders and cable companies have expressed interest in getting involved. Charter cable, which recently did a major upgrade of their service to Hinsdale, has expressed interest in extending service into towns adjacent to those they serve. At the Board's request, S. Nelson agreed to schedule the Charter representative to attend a Select Board meeting to brief them on what Charter can offer.

10. **Town Hall Lock System:** Chief Breen reported to the Board that he has learned that it will cost the Town \$250 for 50 card keys. The new system will record each swipe of the card and identify the card's owner. M. Case expressed his belief that we will not need anywhere near 50 cards. The cards in circulation will be cancelled. Assignment of new cards will be closely controlled.

11. **Illegal Dumping:** Chief Breen and T. Drugmand met with Building inspector Paul Greene to review the situation with Mr. Witter, the party responsible for the dumping. She had researched the Town's position and the best way forward. The Town is best served by keeping out of it, as it is a civil matter between the parties. She has collected all necessary information from the building inspector so the abutter can continue to pursue with a written complaint.

12. **Treasurer:** The Board reminded G. Grogan to send their accrual dates to the highway crew. They also asked him to draft a revision of the relevant language in the Town personnel manual to review with K. Lew and D. Parnell. J. Huebner asked G. Grogan to tell the Board if he needs some help with his work load.
13. **Public Hearing Process:** J. Hostetter told the Board that she had sent out abutters' cards for the upcoming October 17th hearings on Cross Place Road and Frost Road via Certified Mail and asked if subsequent mailings should be handled in the same way. The Board agreed that it is best to use Certified Mail for abutters' cards.
14. **DOT credentials challenge:** In response to DOT's challenge of his credentials, P. Clark told the Board that he will get certified and on the state list. D. Parnell pointed out that we have already paid some of his invoices under CH. 90 and cannot recover that money. P. Clark agreed to work with D. Parnell to correct our accounting. P. Clark told the Board that the work he is doing on Johnson Hill Road is not under CH. 90. The Blotz Road pavers will pay him for his survey work.
15. **Brief Items:** The Mass Bar Assn. will offer free legal advice from 4 to 7 pm to Western Mass. residents by phone, Oct. 26 at 413-782-1659; massDOT will hold an informational meeting about the demolition of toll plazas on the Mass Turnpike and the Roadway Reconstruction Program on Tuesday October 11th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Dist. One Lenox office at 270 Main Street. Focus will be on West Stockbridge and Lee. ; J. Huebner complimented Lisa Guthrie on the updated look of Tracks. ; Chief Breen will meet with MEMA tomorrow about grant opportunities. ; The Select Board and spouses will attend the annual Berkshire County Selectmen's Association Dinner Meeting on Oct. 20 at Greenoch Country Club in Lee.; There are no developments in the Veterans' Memorial or 5 acres of

cemetery land efforts. J. Huebner will attend the Legislative Breakfast on October 14th.

16. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted: Jan Nelson