

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

October 17, 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 from Oct. 3, 2016. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter confirmed that she will attend the Fall Conference at UMASS, Amherst on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> covering The New Public Record Law and Shaping Age-Friendly Communities for All Generations to Come. She presented the Board with a permit to be signed for the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Day bake sale organized by Linda Levernoch to benefit the Washington Scholarship Fund. The Board duly signed the permit. She mentioned that the baked goods will be dropped off at Town Hall on Election Day.
4. **CBRS:** Superintendent Laurie Casna, J.D. will deliver an update on the state of the schools to the Board of Selectmen on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
5. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that the selection and purchase of a new key card lock system for Town Hall is still in progress. He delivered to the Board paperwork for accepting the Emergency Systems grant. This is a \$2500.00 “survival conditions” grant and covers items like cots, bedding, and basic toiletries. He gave the Board a list of all the included items. We can expect delivery of the grant in June before the end of the Fiscal year. J. Huebner told Chief Breen that the annual Berkshire County Selectmen’s Dinner will take place on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>. If he wishes to attend he must get a check from D. Parnell and also pick up our raffle gift.

**6. Highway:** Ken Walls told the Board that he was impressed with the high quality paving job done on Blotz Road. He reported seeing an oversized loaded dump truck exiting Blotz Road. He asked if the weight restriction signs are clearly posted. J. Huebner thanked him for this information and said that the signs are indeed posted at the Dalton and the Hinsdale lines. He asked Ken to make note of the company name and time sited of any additional over-loaded trucks he might spot on Blotz Road in the future.

J. Huebner noted that he had received a complaint about the painting of yellow lane lines down the center of Stonehouse Road. He said that the lines had been painted and will continue to be painted on all of the paved roads in Town per order of the Department of Transportation. This is a safety issue. The painting is paid for by CH. 90 funds. He added that we expect Washington Mountain Road (WMR) to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. That road will receive double yellow lines plus reflectors.

T. Drugmand reported that she had ridden along with T. Johnson down WMR to check the paving of shoulders and the condition of swales on the road. She said that the new guard rails look good. T. Johnson added that Baltazar has already cut up the old rails. They are not worth much in the current scrap market. He will check the guard rails around the Lew's house. Discussion of lower WMR drainage followed.

T. Johnson told the Board that he did attend the StreetScan meeting. He is putting together the details of the process and the cost.

The Frost Road construction bid has not yet been awarded.

**7. Solar Power:** J. Huebner said that there are no developments in this area. SynCarpa was working on community solar with Becket, but appears to have lost interest. Another company, called Solect Energy, has been trying to reach Jim. He will continue to try to connect with them.

- 8. Illegal Dumping:** T. Drugmand told the Board that she informed RJ Peltier that he must write a civil complaint about the dumping of the debris behind Woody's on Rt. 8. Our Building Inspector, Paul Greene, will assist with writing the complaint, which then must be delivered to Mr. Witter, the owner of the Woody's property.
- 9. Meetings:** At the Legislative Breakfast last Friday J. Huebner learned that we have to appoint a Public Records Officer by the end of the year. There was strong support on the Board for appointing the Clerk to this position. No decision was made. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) may receive less funding and Massworks will be funded to half a billion dollars.

BRPC will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year with a dinner on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ben Downing will be honored for his work in the Berkshire community and will be the keynote speaker. J. Huebner and spouse will attend.

A Legislative Summit will be held in Northampton on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. As it will likely focus on Hampshire County, the Board will not attend.

DOT will hold meetings on the demolition of toll plazas on the Mass Pike in Westborough on October 18<sup>th</sup> and in Brighton on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

- 10. Bridges:** There is no news on the Small Bridges Program. T. Drugmand received information from Jody Lampro on the Monterey pre-fabricated bridge. M. Case said that he also has received information on this.
- 11. Broadband/Wired West:** S. Nelson explained that one of the independent contractors interested in building a fiber network in western Mass, Axia, has decided not to move forward at present. Axia decided that the Rt. 2/Charlemont market they were looking at just does not have enough potential customers to make the investment worthwhile. MBI has said that they will develop an RFP for private sector companies to

come into western Mass to do the work. Wired West has already had several presentations from private sector network builders.

S. Nelson reported that he attended the session in Worthington on broadband network construction and that it was very informative. He told the Selectmen that pole surveys are scheduled to begin in Washington during the week after Thanksgiving. Surveys have already begun in Ashfield and Egremont. We will be the 5<sup>th</sup> town surveyed. Several crews are in the field doing this work. There is no charge to any of the towns for their survey. MBI bears that expense. It is estimated that it will take two to three weeks to complete our survey. No poles or wiring will be placed in October Mountain State Forest. S. Nelson gave a packet of information from MBI on the pole surveys to the Select Board. At the end of the survey process MBI will give the Town survey data to us if we request it.

S. Nelson had spoken to Charter Cable, which is currently upgrading Hinsdale's cable TV system. Residents report new internet speeds down of 65 Mbs. Charter is reviewing their options now. They are looking to see if MBI might make some money available to help them expand into towns bordering on Hinsdale or nearby. Charter could wire Washington with no cost to the Town if they got construction money from MBI. They will meet with us when the options become clearer.

**12. Public Hearings Requested by Eversource:** At 7:30pm J. Huebner began the first of the three hearings Eversource had requested. Cards had been sent to all abutters and a number of them were in attendance. Eversource had also sent a representative to the meeting to respond to questions. All three hearings were to discuss the relocation of poles and wiring along Town roads. Town Clerk A. Mikaniewicz joined the meeting to take notes on the decisions and to sign and certify documents for each of the three hearings in turn.

The first road discussed was Cross Place Road. Eversource will move poles and wires at the bottom of the road from the north side of the road to the south side. This move has been long planned by Eversource but coincides conveniently with the Town's plans to install a new culvert at that point in the road. The poles should be moved next week. The Board asked Chief Breen to notify the residents 2 or 3 days in advance of when the road will be temporarily closed. P. Clark will inform Chief Breen of the schedule to close the road.

The Select Board unanimously approved the plan as presented and all signed the documents provided by Eversource. The Clerk also signed and certified the Cross Place Road documents.

The second road discussed was Frost Road. Two or three poles will be relocated to accommodate the installation of the new culvert financed by MEMA. P. Clark said that the poles will be relocated this fall.

The Select Board unanimously approved the plan as presented and all signed the documents provided by Eversource. The Clerk also signed and certified the Frost Road documents.

The third of the three hearings concerned Summit Hill Road. Two poles will be relocated close to the junction with Upper Valley Road in order to accommodate the reconstruction of the Summit Hill Bridge which is expected to begin this spring.

The Select Board unanimously approved the plan as presented and all signed the documents provided by Eversource. The Clerk also signed and certified the Summit Hill Road documents.

There is no cost to the Town for any of this pole and wire relocation work. At 7:45 J. Huebner closed the Eversource hearings.

**13. Future Eversource Hearing:** Eversource has requested another public hearing at Town Hall to review and approve plans for extending 4 poles down Lovers Lane to the new house being built by Kirt Whitney at #1076. Eversource may bring poles and power some distance beyond this address. The Board scheduled this hearing for Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Public Notice will be posted in the Berkshire Eagle each of the two weeks prior to the hearing date. Abutters will be notified.

**14. Bucksteep:** Karen Avalor, Consulting Assessor, told the Board that the Town may have a chance to get Bucksteep back on the tax rolls. She is exploring the possibility that the property has become a “Charitable Occupancy” as the owners have not used the property for their stated purpose of counseling autistic clients for over two years now. She will continue her research and will report her findings back to the Select Board. She will ask for documents from the Board of Health and the Police Chief.

**15. Brief items:** Chief Breen has not yet been able to meet with Eyal Shapira about the Veterans’ Memorial; M. Case reported that there is no news about the 5 acres of cemetery land; There has been no news from the Department of Environmental Reconstruction about our Frost Road dam removal grant application, though we have been told that the results will be announced soon; D. Parnell will be out next week; A resident and her young son attended the meeting as part of his Boy Scout merit badge requirements. They found the meeting calm and productive.

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

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Nelson