

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

November 14, 2016

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from November 7, 2016 as written. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Office Changes at Town Hall:** At 6:00pm tonight the entire Highway crew and about 6 others converged on Town hall to get the heavy lifting for the planned office moves done. Building Inspector Paul Greene vacated his office and moved to a work space in the Meeting Room across the hall. Treasurer Glenn Grogan moved into the Building Inspector's office and the Board of Health moved into the Treasurer's office. Many heavy file cabinets and pieces of furniture were moved around. This was an "all hands on deck effort" and we got it done in time to start the Select Board meeting at 7:00. Among the tasks still to do are moving the Planning Board's files to cabinets in Town Hall and removing shelves in the new Board of Health office
4. **Police:** Chief Breen reported to the Board that Ben Philips will be serving as primary backup driver for the school bus. Amy Johnson, the Highway Superintendent's wife, will be a second back up driver. Both will get the required certifications from the state to drive our bus. They will meet all legal requirements. A brief discussion of Town speed limits followed with the general conclusion that the current limits are effective as posted.
5. **Town Hall Security:** Building security will be updated by the purchase of a new key card system. Additionally, new locks will be installed in all offices. All file cabinets which hold confidential documents will be re-keyed if

needed. The final number of keys will be determined shortly with information from the Assessors and the Tax Collector. No one will be able to duplicate these keys. Recipients will sign for their keys. Chief Breen will schedule the locksmith to finish the transition. Building Maintenance Manager E. Bond will be involved in the transition. The Board will announce the date and details of the changeover to new keys in the December Selectmen's Letter.

6. **Board of Health:** Board of Health member Vera Cormier told the Selectmen that she and Health Agent Charlie Kaniecki were asked to inspect a shed on a property on Middlefield road. They discovered that the shed had collapsed and no further action of the Board of Health was required. They also stopped at the old Woody's roadhouse on Route 8. Residents had complained about its dilapidated appearance. C. Kaniecki took photos of the roadhouse and the debris dumped behind it. He will send copies of the photos to the owner, Mr. Whitter and to the Building Inspector. V. Cormier mentioned that three new building lots on Washington Mountain Road (WMR) will need cut out permits. She also told the Board that a resident of Frost Road asked the Board of Health for a Certificate of Compliance for his septic system. The system was installed in 2012 and he did not request a Certificate at that time. There were no witnesses. V. Cormier refused to give him a Certificate and advised him to get another inspection.
7. **Highway Department:** Tom Johnson told the Board that WMR still needs a top coat of asphalt and more edging. They may work on Saturday to finish the work. They will be done before the asphalt plant closes for the season. He also told the Board that he has no information on pre-fabricated bridges yet. The abutments on the Middlefield Road Bridge are sound. We can't go ahead with repairs until P. Clark receives his certification. Work has begun on Cross Place Road culvert. T. Johnson does not think that the road will have to be closed at all.

8. **Wired West/Broadband:** S. Nelson gave the Select Board an update on the high speed internet effort. At the monthly WiredWest Delegates' meeting last Saturday there was some turmoil. It was clear that some towns are looking for another way to reach the goal. New Marlboro, for example, has the opportunity to work with a Connecticut-based company called Frontier Communications which would build out into southernmost Berkshire County and offer a high speed system. Several other south Berkshire towns are considering building their own mini-network. Charter Cable still seems undecided about whether to expand in our area. Pole surveys are ongoing as promised in the first group of towns. WiredWest continues to send out RFI's to potential contractors/vendors and has built a list of high quality firms ready to work with them to build the regional network. WiredWest would manage these 3rd party companies.

Lacking any response from MBI, WiredWest will move ahead and contact Carolyn Kirk, Executive Secretary of the Office of Economic Development and Housing to try to convince her to support a regional solution to the Broadband challenge. The plan is to organize town Select Boards and finance committees as a united front to press the case for regionalization. Most towns do not want to own their infrastructure and are more than ready to tell MBI that. M. Case, president of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association, asked to be kept informed about this effort and indicated that he might be able to help organize support in the towns.

9. **Eden Glen:** We were not awarded the grant we applied for to remove the Eden Glen Dam. Washington Wild & Scenic told us the reason for this was that residents were not committed to taking the dam out. M. Case, Western District DCR Director, said that there is still no money available to re-build/repair old dams, only to remove them.
10. **Westfield Wild & Scenic:** J. Huebner read from the minutes of last month's WW&S meeting that a group of property owners from Washington known as the "Watson Road Group" have inquired with DCR about protecting 150

acres along Shaker Mill and Watson Brooks. Their goal is to limit the expansion of ATV activity in the area and thus to better preserve the extensive water and wetland areas. The minutes also mentioned that as of October 18th nearly 40% of the state was designated as suffering from Extreme Drought and nearly 50% as suffering Severe Drought. The entire Westfield River basin falls into one of these 2 areas. There will be a Westfield Wild & Scenic meeting this Thursday at Chesterfield Town Hall at 7:00pm.

11. **Brief Items:** There are no developments in either the Veterans' memorial effort or the transfer of 5 acres from Pittsfield for a new cemetery. There will be a Seven Towns meeting at Waconah on 11/17 at 7:00pm.

12. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

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Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson