

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

January 23, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. 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 of January 9, 2017. M. Case seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. **Job Interview – Tax Collector and Assistant for Tax Collector and Treasurer:** Only two of the three qualified candidates, Melissa Martinello and Susan Warden, showed up to be interviewed by the Select Board, Glenn Grogan, Dick Spencer, and Kent Lew. Each candidate answered the same set of questions (appended) and was given the opportunity to ask questions in turn. After the interviews and discussion the Board decided that Ms. Martinello be offered the position of Tax Collector. In addition the Board decided to not move forward on the Assistant position until it became clear that it was needed. However, Ms. Warden would be asked to consider taking the assistant position at a later date. J. Huebner and J. Nelson to follow up.
4. **Select Board Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion to accept the February Select Board letter. M. Case seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. J Huebner will send to Lisa Guthrie.
5. **DEP Contract:** J. Huebner signed the DEP contract for recycling assistance. M. Lampro will need to sign and be notarized.
6. **DLTA Grant:** J. Huebner reported applying for a DLTA grant to develop shared municipal services. Becket, Dalton and Hinsdale are listed as Partner Municipalities.
7. **Town Hall Roof:** Ed Bond reported that the Town Hall roof was inspected and that the leaks appear to have stopped. He reported that he repaired the water damage. The replacement of the roof with a peaked roof was discussed; Ed will develop a preliminary cost estimate.
8. **Eversource** is seeking a rate increase; the flier will be posted.

## 9. Highway Department

- a. J. Huebner reported on the pre-construction meeting for the Summit Hill bridge over the CSX tracks held at DOT District One in Lenox on January 17. The plan calls for the bridge to be closed from April 29 to August 29. Traffic will be detoured through Hinsdale along Middlefield Road, Fassel Road and East Washington Road. DOT once again assured us that the detour route road surface will be improved. Tully Construction has been awarded the contract and will do all new construction instead of using a pre-form as DOT had previously indicated.
- b. Highway Superintendent Tom Johnson told the Board that the head wall of the culvert at the top of Frost Road had collapsed and was in danger of making the road impassable. Tom has sleeved the pipe for the time being but the culvert will need a major repair. Phil Clark is assisting Tom to figure out how best to do it since the pipe is 30 feet below grade. They are also investigating funding sources. Tom will contact MEMA.
- c. Phil and Tom are also preparing TIP submissions for the Lower Valley bridge and the Lovers Lane bride/culvert.
- d. Phil reported that the Army Corps of Engineers has cleared the work at Eden Glen but DOT still needs to respond. He hopes construction can begin by April 1, but the damage to the Frost Road culvert complicates the schedule since the projects have to be sequential to avoid cutting access for Frost Road homeowners.
- e. Tom reported that the paid time off calculations had been resolved. He also said that Ford was refusing to pay for the engine repair of the school bus; given the nature of the problem we may need to have Town Counsel sue. Tom will provide documentation.
- f. Tom reported visible damage from heavy vehicles on Washington Mountain Road. The road was supposed to be built for heavy truck traffic. Tom will document for further action.

**10. Brief Items:** The Board declined to respond to an offer from “Vehicles for Veterans”; neither Selectman planned to attend either the MIIA meeting 3/22 in Westford or the HCOG meeting 1/26 in Northampton; J. Huebner

noted that the Department of Public Health was conducting a Homeless Survey but was confident that there were no homeless persons in Washington; J. Huebner will attend the MPO meeting 1/24.

- 11.** J Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

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

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

Painfully submitted,  
J. Huebner