

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

February 13, 2017

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. T. Drugmand was recording the meeting.
3. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of February 6, 2017. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
4. **Highway:** J. Huebner asked Tom Johnson how the Highway crew is holding up under the winter workload. T. Johnson told him that the crew is working as a team and getting the job done. They have had only had one equipment problem so far. T. Drugmand mentioned that a resident of Schulze Road had called her to complain about the plowing job done on her road. As there had been previous complaints from this party, T. Johnson told the Board that he will personally plow Schulze Road from now on and will document the job done with video. His goal is to make sure all residents are satisfied with the Crew's work. There was brief discussion of a dispute between neighbors.

P. Clark of Horizon Consulting Joined the meeting and discussion shifted to Eden Glen. He told the Board that the culvert is still in process with MassDOT in Boston. The Army Corps approvals are complete and have been received. We have still not finalized the contract with Maxymillian. DOT came back with more questions. They had asked for a 100 year scenario in the RFP, but now want a shorted time period. P. Clark is working to satisfy that request. MassDOT is generally dragging its feet. Discussion moved to the subject of the collapsed culvert at the top of Frost Road. P. Clark said that he has been searching for records of that culvert's construction. J. Hostetter told him that she will check the old files in the

Administrative Assistant's office. J. Huebner thought that the work had been done in the late 1970's or early 80's. The headwall has fallen and crushed the pipe. There is a possibility that the embankment will erode and wash out much of Frost Road. J. Huebner asked P. Clark if the Town can go back to FEMA and ask for repair money. He wondered if we could attribute the pipe damage to Hurricane Irene. P. Clark said that boring might be a cost effective option, but it could also create worse problems. We would still have to rebuild the headwall. J. Huebner asked for more information on our options.

J. Huebner said that we missed out on the TIP this year. He has no news of the Small Bridge Program or of MassWorks. He asked T. Johnson for contact information for the Ford Representative with whom he had spoken. This individual had agreed that our school bus had a problem that needed attention. Even with just "hearsay" evidence we may be able to send a demand letter to Ford and get reimbursed for the cost of the repairs to the school bus.

5. **Board of Health:** V. Cormier told the Selectmen that the Board of Health (BOH) had received the expected check from White Wolf. Sean Connors paid his fee for the disputed inspection. J. Huebner gave V. Cormier a letter he had written to Eyal Shapira of Washington Mountain Road. The letter concerned the Board of Health requirements for practices at Camp Trident, the summer camp which the Select Board had learned E. Shapira operates on his property. The letter informed him that if he intends to open the camp again he must comply with Mass. General Law M. G. L.c. 111,3 and 127A & 105 CMR 430.000 which pertains to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Recreational Camps for Children. The letter also requested contact information for the camp in addition to whether it is residential; number of staff when operating; number of volunteers and number of campers. E. Shapira was notified that the camp will have to be inspected by the Town BOH before its next season and he was asked to inform the BOH of its planned opening date. J. Huebner also reminded him that he will have

to request an inspection and permit if food is served at other events during the year. During discussion of the letter V. Cormier told the Board that she had learned E. Shapira has built at least one swimming pool on his property. This too will have to be inspected and permitted by the BOH. At this point in the discussion J. Huebner decided that he would have to re-write the letter to include this new information. He will have it ready for the next Select Board meeting on February 27th.

6. **Assessors:** K. Avalle reported that Washington has benefitted from new residential growth which has added \$ 1.3 million to our assessed value. Most of that growth has been on Lovers Lane and on Washington Mountain Road.
7. **Tax Collector:** J. Huebner thanked Melissa Martinetto, our new Collector, for joining the meeting. He confirmed that she has been bonded and has received Town Hall keys. He regretted that Paul Lisi of the Municipal Tax Collectors organization has not yet been able to assist with her training. J. Huebner told her to speak up and ask for any help she may need. We need to bring in still uncollected property taxes as soon as possible.
8. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter told the Board that she has received Annual Reports from the Assessors and Tax Collector. The Accountant is working on his. The Board agreed that the Administrative Assistants should take the cost of computer print cartridges for their home printers out of the office budget as they do much work for the Town from their homes. Having finished recording the old cemetery records, J. Hostetter developed a process for recording new Town burials and reviewed it with Sexton Dick Grillon. She told the Board that Chief Breen is getting signatures of the remaining few Town Hall key holders who have not yet signed the updated agreement. She reminded M. Case that he must sign the updated agreement. She is responsible for the roster of keys. She mentioned that no one has come forward to purchase the old file cabinets. She offered to purchase one vertical file for \$20.00. The Board accepted her offer. J. Les

estimated the value of the old Assessors' desk top computers at \$172.00 total. No one has come forward to buy these either. P. Clark has expressed interest in the round table which was in the building Inspector's former office. J. Hostetter told the Board that she has finished typing up the new state well regulations for the BOH. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the status of digitizing the Town's old records. She told him that the work goes slowly as the records are not of a uniform size and many are in fragile condition. He told her that he wants to have 20 years of records digitized.

9. **Emma Bailey Scholarship Fund Appeal:** The Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee submitted a fund-raising letter to the Select Board requesting donations to the scholarship fund. The Fund has dwindled in recent years and needs to be bolstered if the Town is to continue to award the scholarship in any meaningful amount. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee's appeal letter. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to approve the letter was unanimous. J. Huebner requested that the fund raising letter be printed in Tracks.
10. **Vocational School Transportation:** J. Huebner reported that we received an invoice from the Town of Becket in the amount of \$358.49 as Washington's share of the total cost of transporting one student to Smith Vocational High School for the month of February.
11. **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission:** J. Huebner also reported receiving an invoice from the BRPC for our annual membership in the amount of \$ 408.00.
12. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that Town residents need to know that the police emergency number is 413-623-5111. He has discovered that few people in Town know this important number. He also reported recently providing fuel to a woman who had run out of gasoline on Washington Mountain Road.

13. WiredWest: S. Nelson told the Board that he had emailed them a copy of his notes from the recent WiredWest meeting. J. Huebner observed that he had been following the informative series of articles in the Eagle about MBI and its divisive effect on the regional broadband network which WiredWest still seeks to build. He observed that it looks like the consumer price will go up. S. Nelson agreed. He added that much updated information is now available to the public about the past several years of WiredWest's efforts to plan and build the regional network. Obstacles to those efforts which the state has deliberately or accidentally created have also been discussed in the press and at public meetings over the past months. In fact there is so much information available now that many people have become confused about next steps in the process. S. Nelson said that WiredWest is working to summarize a statement of the current status of the effort . He mentioned that MBI has called a meeting for town officials to express their opinions about the broadband effort in Worthington on February 16. S. Nelson will attend and update the Selectmen on developments.

14. Brief Items: The Clerk has announced that Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 10th and that town elections will take place on May 20th; On April 8th a special election on the \$850,000 school feasibility study expenditure will take place at Town Hall; The 7 Town Advisory meeting will take place on Feb. 16. J. Huebner may attend; Special Town Meeting will take place on March 20th; The First Congregational Church of Hinsdale has refurbished and reopened its Community Food Pantry. They will hold an Open House at the Pantry on Saturday, February 18 from 1:00 to 3:00. All are welcome; Westfield Wild and Scenic will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 at the Cummington Community House on Main Street, Cummington; There will be no Selectmen's meeting on February 20th, Presidents' Day.

15. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson