

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

March 13, 2017

1. M. Case called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were M. Case and T. Drugmand.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, M. Case made a motion to accept the minutes of March 6, 2017 as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Residents' Issues/Concerns:** Barbara Keyes and Lorraine Morrisette, instructors at fitness classes in Town, discussed their need for a second Town Hall key with the Board. B. Keyes received that first key. They told the Board that as they often teach at different times and on different days, this arrangement is not logistically convenient. The Board decided not to make a decision on the request at this time as limiting the number of keys in circulation was one of the main reasons for issuing the new keys. Board Chair J. Huebner will be back next week and the Board will take it up at that time. The whole Select Board will have to vote on it. The request will be put on the agenda.
4. **Building Maintenance:** Ed Bond explained to the Board that he was called to Town Hall this morning because there had been a flood in the Auditorium overnight. T. Drugmand and J. Hostetter were mopping up the water when he arrived. Ed called in Plumbing Inspector Mark Levernoch. He inspected the radiators and determined that the flooding was caused by the freeze-up of a valve. This caused both radiators to leak. Ed reviewed the repair situation with Mark and asked him for an estimate. The total cost was estimated to be about \$400.00 with his time. Together they worked for over 3 hours and completed the repair. E. Bond also checked and adjusted the radiators in several offices with heating problems. He observed the need to clear sludge out of the radiators. This had accumulated because the system filter is not working correctly. We need to get all of the systems

cleared out. Additionally he stated that he is working to get an estimate on changing the Town hall from flat to sloping roof. His rough estimate is \$50,000. He did finally get a key to the utility room. Both he and Chief Breen have one now.

- 5. Summit Hill Road Access:** Mary Jarvie of Summit Hill Road inquired about the condition of the road which DOT has chosen for access during the reconstruction of Summit Hill Bridge. The bridge is still scheduled for construction this Spring. She said that the Hinsdale Selectmen think that DOT is taking care of improvements to that road and asked the Board's opinion. The Board was unsure, as we have not had an update from DOT. M. Case said that the state agreed to improve that route. K. Lew thought that must be in the contract. M. Jarvie mentioned the impact that the bad road will have on the Campground's business and on mail delivery and school bus schedules.
- 6. WiredWest/Broadband:** K. Lew told the Board that at the March 9 meeting with state officials from Mass Tech and MBI the focus of discussion was on defining the funding process. Clarification was needed on the criteria to award funds for construction. The discussion was productive and he expects that more information will be available after this week's meeting with Carolyn Kirk, the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Housing and Economic Development. The monthly WiredWest delegates' meeting will take place this Saturday, 3/18, in Blandford.
- 7. Ambulance Service:** M. Case reported that he had spoken with contacts in Hinsdale and they are potentially interested in providing ambulance service to Washington. This is only at the discussion level. Chief Breen said that we used Hinsdale in the past, prior to our present arrangement with Becket and that the service was not good. They had staffing problems. We are in discussions presently with Becket about paying our fair share of the cost of the services which they provide to Washington. These are: Fire protection, ambulance and recreation at Becket Beach. Currently Becket spends a total

of \$300,000 annually for ambulance service. Discussion of this high figure followed. Sean Connors explained that figure is so high because of state laws which require that a town or company offering ambulance service maintain a certain number of medics in readiness for emergency service at all times.

- 8. School Transportation:** Chief Breen told the Board that our last Washington vocational student has moved away. He had been attending McCann. Becket has agreed to pay the balance of his year's transportation cost to Washington. Our school transportation arrangements with Becket over the years have been on a friendly handshake basis. It was agreed for the sake of both parties we need to get an agreement in writing going forward. The Board will meet with Accountant D. Parnell on this subject.
- 9. Tax Collector:** Assessor K. Avalle and Finance Chair K. Lew will work together to find a trainer for Melissa Martinetto, our new Collector. DOR will come next Monday to work on getting out our Spring property tax bills. Our excise tax bills will be going out on Tuesday. To get M. Martinetto up to speed quickly will require an on-site trainer. It was agreed that we need immediate short-term assistance. Later on if we believe ongoing assistance is necessary we will respond to that need.
- 10. Advance from Stabilization:** The Finance Committee reported to the Board that Mass DOR has approved our request for an advance of funds from stabilization. We are required to repay the funds before the end of the fiscal year. M. Case made a motion to go ahead with the advance. Trish Drugmand seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- 11. Planning Board:** The subject of bylaws and the upcoming ATM was raised. D. Spencer said that sooner, not later, is the time that our planning Board should be discussing new bylaws and changes to existing ones. He mentioned our potential need for a bylaw defining zoning for a marijuana grow facility. Someone is looking at Becket to locate such a facility. S.

Connor reminded the Board that we do have a process to allow zoning variances. D. Spencer said that the Town permits farming. He emphasized that “we don’t know what we don’t know” about this marijuana issue, but that it is a planning issue. T. Drugmand said that she will contact Planning Board Chair, Marilyn Wiley for an update on bylaws they are working on for the warrant and vote at the ATM.

- 12. Police:** Chief Breen met again with Johnson Ford to settle the dispute over how much money the Town owed for the recent repairs to the school bus. There were 2 rounds of repairs and two separate bills. The first attempt did not solve the problem. The second time around the bad parts were replaced. Chief Breen was led to believe that we would not be charged for that first service. However, the dealer denied this and will only accept payment in full. Chief Breen will give the invoice to the Treasurer for payment.

Chief Breen is making arrangements to have a combination lock installed in the Clerk’s door. This will ensure the security of that office and the Assessor’s office next door.

- 13. Pittsfield Watershed Income:** K. Lew reminded the Board that it is time to contact Pittsfield to get an accounting of the money they made on the recent timber harvest. He worked hard last year to establish a process for tracking these funds to insure that we receive our fair share of the money. His contact, Bruce Collingwood, has moved on and we must identify another. D. Spencer suggested we contact the Conservation Commission for this information. Sean Connors agreed to take on this task.

- 14.CBRSD:** M. Case reminded all that the referendum on the proposed Wahconah feasibility study will take place on Saturday April 8th. This will be a ballot vote on whether to build a new high school, renovate the existing building or do nothing. Voting will take place at Town Hall from 10:00am until 4pm. The feasibility study will cost up to \$850,000. We received a

copy of the Election Warrant from CBRSD signed by Laurie Casna, District Secretary and Superintendent of Schools. The warrant will be posted at Town Hall.

T. Drugmand said that people want more information on just what we will be getting for that money. D. Spencer said that in a general sense feasibility is the expected cost over the life of that school, factoring in enrollment growth rates etc. T. Drugmand expressed the need for an informational meeting with CBRSD. This could possibly be a joint meeting with Becket also attending. M. Case reported that the Town received a letter of apology from CBRSD for failing to achieve a quorum at the February 23 meeting of the School Committee. This will delay release of our final budget by 2 weeks.

15. Board of Health: The Town received an invitation to the annual Berkshire County Boards of Health (BCBOHA) Dinner. It will be held on Thursday April 13 at the Country Club of Pittsfield.

V. Cormier of the Washington Board of Health reported that she has had no reply from Eyal Shapira to our registered letter regarding the state's permitting requirements for his summer camp.

16. Invoices for Becket Shared Services: The Board reported receiving invoices from Becket for Becket Town Beach - \$1,000 annually; Washington Portion of Vocational School Transportation, 1/8 of \$2,867.94 – \$358.49; Fire Protection Services from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 - \$10,000 annually.

17. Brief Items: Chief Breen to complete state form for Town Inspector of Animals and have it notarized by the Clerk; DOT has rescheduled the awards ceremony for the Municipal Small Bridge Program to March 29 at 2:00pm at the State House in Boston.

18. Adjournment: T. Drugmand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

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Respectfully submitted:

Jan Nelson