

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

May 1, 2017

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 of April 24, 2017 as amended. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. **Open Forum for Residents:** Several residents directly affected by the pending reconstruction of Summit Hill Bridge addressed the Board about their concerns. DOT has again postponed the construction start date. This new date is May 28th. The reason given by DOT for the repeated postponements has been the lack of an available flagman. The Board wondered how this problem could come up so late in the process. Mark Levernoch told the Board that Summit Hill residents want the Town to pressure our delegation to push DOT into getting the project underway before we lose out on the good weather and have to wait another year for a safe span. State Representative Pignatelli, State Senator Hinds and US Senator Neal were all mentioned.

J. Huebner said that he will contact CSX again about getting a flagman sooner. He did speak with DuFour about residents' problems with the very early school bus pick-up schedule. He was informed that one trip could be shortened but not the other. M. Case said that this issue should be brought up at the ATM as Superintendent Casna will be there. We are also discussing mail delivery options with the Post Office.

Chief Breen told the Board that he has opened a dialog with fire and police chiefs in Hinsdale and Becket regarding mutual aid on the bridge project should it be needed. He is including ambulance services in the discussions. He will report back to the Board with their decisions.

4. **Highway Department:** Tom Johnson introduced a representative from the Street Scan Company to the Select Board. Tom explained that he had recently seen a demonstration of the Street Scan process and believed it might be very helpful to the Town in gaining an in-depth understanding of the condition of our paved roads. It could help us spend our road and bridge budget more effectively. The Street Scan technology is based on ground penetrating radar which produces a “picture” of what’s going on in the blacktop and the ground beneath it. The equipment is mounted on a vehicle which would be driven over all Town paved roads to record the data. We could then order various reports based on that initial scan. The service is Chapter 90 eligible and we could do it this fiscal year as we have funds available.

T. Johnson thinks the scan would be a good tool for the Town to use. K. Lew wants to look closely at the cost and to discuss this with the Finance Committee. J. Huebner asked T. Johnson to send him a list of which services he thinks would be most useful to the Town. There was general agreement that this technology would be very helpful in checking conditions below the surface on Washington Mountain Road. The Board agreed to discuss Street Scan further next week. They thanked the Street Scan representative for his presentation.

5. **Finance:** Treasurer G. Grogan told the Board that we will be paying a \$500,000 loan the first week in June. The loan amount will be rolled over again. That has to happen simultaneously. J. Huebner made a motion that we take a short-term loan in the amount of \$660,485 which will be reimbursed from the Federal grant for Eden Glen. M. Case seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. G. Grogan has been able to deposit a number of the property tax checks which have come in. K. Lew is working along with the Treasurer to get transactions organized. The auditor from DOR is still ill and has not been able to complete his work. K. Lew will generate a turnover report. He took from Allison all of the property tax checks that had come in this night.

6. **Tax Collector:** As M. Martinetto has indicated she will step down from the Tax Collector's position after we no longer need her signature, J. Huebner asked if we have any candidates who could step in to take her position. G. Grogan said that Peggy DiSantis, an experienced Collector from Lee, had come in at K. Avalle's recommendation to get acquainted with our challenges and indicated some interest in the position. J. Huebner asked for her contact information. G. Viner of the Assessors suggested that the Tax Collector from Peru might be interested. He works part time for several towns. J. Huebner also mentioned that he had left a voice message for Susan Warden of Middlefield, a strong candidate whom he interviewed several months ago. If no one gets elected by the Town we can go ahead and interview these candidates.

7. **ATM Warrant:** K. Lew told the Board to proceed with signing the warrant. He had checked it thoroughly and he believed it ready to use. J. Huebner made a motion to sign the warrant. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Clerk certified the warrant. Chief Breen took the 3 copies of the warrant to post according to established Town practice: on the bulletin board outside town Hall, in the salt shed at the Town Garage and on the bulletin board outside Old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road.

8. **Annual Election Warrant:** J. Huebner made a motion to sign the Annual Election Warrant as presented. M. Case seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Both Selectmen signed the warrant.

9. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that he got a call to investigate a group of kids up at Bucksteep Manor. He went up there and disbursed the kids. He had done the same on one other recent occasion.

10. **Board of Health:** J. Huebner reported that we have received the complete Right of Way Management plan as requested from CSX. He will pass this on to our Board of Health as it includes CSX herbicide spraying information.
11. **Veterans' Memorial:** Chief Breen reported that there was a meeting last week about the potential memorial. It was decided that he , E. Shapira and Peter Blake would meet at the end of June. In the meantime E. Shapira will have engineers come in to put together some options and cost estimates.
12. **Washington Mt. Road:** J. Huebner mentioned that he had been trying to reach Lieutenant Dalton at the State Police barracks in Cheshire about the dangerous speeding problem on Washington Mountain Road. He will continue to try to speak with him. T. Johnson will speak to the concerned resident about the guard rail which is reported to block the view exiting their driveway.
13. **Middlefield Road bridge/ Eden Glen:** J. Hostetter said that she has had about 15 requests for our RFP in response to our posting in the state Central Register. She has sent the RFP's out and has compiled a list of the interested parties. We expect another surge of interest when our Public Notices are published in the Berkshire Eagle on May 3 and 10. The Town will conduct a site review and a Q & A session on May 16 starting at 11:00 am at Town Hall followed by a site inspection. J. Huebner asked her to give all of P. Clark's information to T. Johnson. J. Huebner made a motion to pay all open invoices to P. Clark. M. Case seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. P. Clark will continue in charge of the Eden Glen culvert project. We do not have a date yet for that preconstruction meeting. December 12 is the deadline for billing on the Eden Glen project.
14. **Berkshire Selectmen's Association Meeting:** Our 3 person Select Board and Police Chief attended the meeting and dinner in Lanesboro last Thursday. Our new state Senator Adam Hinds was the speaker. He saw a

demonstration of the power that 30 towns can have working together. He heard our issues.

15. **MBI:** J. Huebner mentioned that there has been attention paid lately in the press to the MBI's handling of the funds appropriated for the building of the rural broadband network. The new organization in charge, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development may look into this.
16. **Town of Washington Map review:** The Clerk showed the Select Board a large map sent to us by the election authorities in Boston. As we are a one precinct town the state requested we review the map and report any changes (new streets etc.) to them. Finding none, the Board approved the map as is.
17. **Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Map:** The state sent a map for public comment. J. Huebner asked that it be posted at Town Hall.
18. **CBRSD Audit:** J. Huebner received a copy of the audit report from CBRSD. He said that he will review it.
19. **Recycling:** American Retroworks sent the Town a thank you letter for our recycling efforts. They collected about 4,170 lbs. of material from our facilities in 2016. They were recognized as 2016's Business of the Year by the Northeast Resource Recovery Association.
20. **Westfield Wild & Scenic:** In their minutes of April 27 WW&S mentions that they have been in touch with DOT about preserving the historic turntable bridge across "the cut" at Summit Hill Road when that bridge is re-built this Spring. Mark DeVylder of DOT is working with the Chester Foundation to preserve the roundtable.
21. **Town Elected Officials update:** The MMA is requesting this update. We will provide the information to them after our elections on May 20th.

22. **Brief Items:** The Selectmen requested that the Administrative Assistant provide a sympathy card for their signatures next Monday as Assessor Consultant K. Avalle's husband has recently passed away.

23. **Adjournment:** At 8:21pm J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson