

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

May 22, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, T. Drugmand and R. Grillon. T. Drugmand was recording the meeting.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner called for the election of Select Board Officers. J. Huebner was re-elected as Chair and T. Drugmand was re-elected as Clerk. J. Huebner and T. Drugmand congratulated R. Grillon on his victory in the 5/20 Town Election.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of May 15th as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **BRTA:** J. Huebner noted that we need a Board Member to represent Washington to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority. The Board gratefully accepted R. Grillon's offer to fill that vacancy.
5. **Election Results:** Town Clerk A. Mikaniewicz reviewed the May 20, 2017 Town election results with the Board. In addition to R. Grillon's write in victory for Selectman, Melissa Martinetto won the write in vote for Tax Collector and will be sworn in tonight. Shaun Lennon was elected to the Planning Board. M. Case won the write in vote for Auditor but has declined the office as he is not qualified. The Clerk will check with D. Drugmand as he received several votes for Auditor. Incumbents Richard Spencer and Sean Connors were re-elected to the Finance Committee. With the exception of M. Case, all of the winners have accepted their offices. Thirty-five per cent of registered Town voters cast their ballots in this election.
6. **Summit Hill Road:** Chief Breen reported that there is still no hard start date for the Summit Hill bridge replacement. May 22 was the last date we had. J. Huebner confirmed that we have no word from either the contractor, Tully,

nor from DOT. He has contacted our state delegation for help but they have had no success. M. Levernoch told the Board that not knowing the start date was a hardship for him and for his business. J. Huebner said that the delay is caused by CSX not having a flagman available for the project. We will continue to press for a date. Chief Breen is in charge of communications to residents on details of the Summit Hill bridge reconstruction and will get the word out as soon as we have a date for start-up. Tom Johnson added that East Washington Road has been graded. Hinsdale has put down gravel and filled some potholes. However the road condition is not acceptable yet.

7. **Tax Collector** : Experienced, certified Collector Peggy DiSantis and her Assistant daughter Gina Campbell attended the meeting at the Board's invitation to discuss our Tax Collector and Assistant requirements and their possible interest in the positions. At the recent Annual Town Meeting we voted to have an appointed rather than an elected Collector.

K. Lew gave a brief summary of our current status. Charlie Brown completed a basic audit of our condition. All property taxes and most excise taxes have been turned over to the bank. A few excise taxes are still outstanding. We did have a delay in getting the bills out. K. Lew took charge of this effort and booked more than \$800,000.

J. Huebner asked Ms. DeSantis and Ms. Campbell about their interest in the positions. We are looking for both a Tax Collector and an Assistant who will be cross-trained to support the Treasurer. Ms. DeSantis confirmed her interest but said that the Tax Collector's salary was too low. J. Huebner said that we can offer \$10,000. We can settle the details in a Special Town Meeting to be held before the end of the fiscal year. K. Lew informed them that they can access our system remotely. They informed the Board that they are both bonded.

J. Huebner made a motion that in the event of M. Martinetto's resignation we hire Peggy DiSantis and Gina Campbell for \$10,000 and \$2,000 respectively. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously. K. Lew said that we have enough budget to pay them through the end of the year. J. Huebner asked them to give their contact information to J. Hostetter.

8. **Treasurer:** G. Grogan obtained the signatures of all 3 Selectmen on the loan note. This was for our share of last year's short term loan.
9. **Highway:** J. Huebner reported that the Street Scan company accepted all of the changes to the Agreement requested by Town Counsel. The Finance Department agreed to go ahead with the service. Chapter 90 will cover the cost. J. Huebner said that the Street Scan survey should give the Town protection from any liability resulting from the condition of Washington Mountain Road (WMR). J. Huebner made a motion to sign the Street Scan Agreement. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Tom Johnson mentioned that DOR has subtracted a sum from Baltazar's contract for problems. J. Huebner will investigate.
10. **Middlefield Road Bridge Bid Opening:** At 7:30, as scheduled, J. Huebner started the bid opening for the design portion of the Middlefield Road bridge project. He reported that only one of the 14 companies which requested bid packages attended the walk through last week. That company was Nitsch Engineering of Worcester, MA. They were the sole bidder. Their bid was \$98,000. The Board agreed that the bid of \$98,000 for design services alone was too high. The Board also expressed concern that Nitsch wanted until December to complete the work. J. Huebner suggested that we immediately look into our options for using a prefab bridge instead of new construction. T. Johnson will reach out to engineering firms and pre-fab companies he knows about.

- 11. Eden Glen:** J. Huebner reported that work has started on this culvert project. The contractor, Maxymillian, has closed Frost Road. They have one pipe installed now and are waiting for the culverts to be manufactured. This will take 4 – 5 weeks. Horizon Engineering has approved the bill to the Town for \$26,135 from Maxymillian. K. Lew asked for a billing schedule. We have received documentation from Maxymillian on their pay and OSHA certifications.
- 12. Ambulance Service:** J. Huebner spoke to Becket about our decision to go with County Ambulance for emergency services. County is offering professional coverage of our area with no cost to the Town. J. Huebner made a motion that we sign the Service Agreement with County. D. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. J. Huebner said that we can rescind our \$8,000 ambulance appropriation at the next STM.
- 13. Monthly Selectmen’s Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion to approve the monthly Selectmen’s letter. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 14. Ed Bond Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion to send the Board’s Letter of Appreciation to Ed Bond for his many years of service to the Town. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The Board also discussed and agreed on having a Certificate of Achievement/ Recognition of Service made up for Ed for next year’s ATM. J. Huebner asked that J. Hostetter take charge of this.
- 15. Broadband/Wiredwest:** K. Lew and S. Nelson met with Westfield Gas and Electric last week. The independent pole survey identified many more poles than MBI had. After several hours of calculations and discussion with WG&E it appears that we would come in \$2500 under the projected budget. The state grant will not cover all of our expense but we have planned for appropriate borrowing. K. Lew agreed that it is reasonable to move forward carefully.

WG&E suggested that we might be able to reduce our make-ready cost if we could determine by a search of our records that the electric company had agreed to reserve some pole space for municipal wiring. S. Nelson will talk to the Clerk to determine if we have such records on hand. S. Nelson and K. Lew said they will move ahead with preparing our funding application. Both believe that it will be approved. They will complete the application by the next Select Board meeting on June 5 and will send a copy to the Chair in advance.

16. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that he has to re-submit our grant application for emergency supplies.
17. **Board of Health:** The Select Board received a report on Cancer Incidence in Massachusetts, 2009 – 2013 from the Massachusetts Cancer Registry. J. Huebner asked that it be given to the Board of Health for its files. The Board also received an invitation to request the 2017 Yearly Operational Plan for Right-of-Way-(ROW) Management from CSX Transportation, Inc. The plan describes how CSX will control vegetation on the railroad ROW in Massachusetts. J. Huebner also asked that this be given to the Board of Health. A related publication was received from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources dealing with the public's right to protest the CSX Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) was also to be given to the Board of Health.
18. **Fire Department:** Paul Mikaniewicz told the Board that he will continue to work on dry hydrant opportunities around Town.
19. **Brief Items:** With Ed Bond's retirement we will need a new Zoning Board of Appeals Chair; T. Drugmand will review the Westfield Wild and Scenic minutes; T. Drugmand will write a job description for the position of Town Maintenance Coordinator to be published in Tracks; J. Huebner has not had

a reply yet from Mayor Tyer of Pittsfield to his request to meet with her on the cemetery land question.

20. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. T. Drugmand seconded and the move to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson