

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

June 5, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, T. Drugmand and R. Grillon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of May 22 as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Tax Collector:** Newly elected Tax Collector Melissa Martinetto and Gina Campbell, prospective Assistant Collector, joined the meeting. J. Huebner made a motion to appoint Gina Campbell to the position of Assistant Tax Collector. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to appoint was unanimous. G. Campbell will take over the duties performed in past years by Sue McGrath. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to conduct a Cori check on Gina Campbell.
4. **Board of Health:** J. Huebner reviewed the invoice submitted by Vera Cormier and Jan Paxton Huebner of the Board of Health for their administrative work reorganizing the Town's Board of Health files. The work involved reviewing each folder and combining newer and older data in one file for each property address. The Board of Health members spent a total of 10.5 hours each on this project at the rate of \$20.00 per hour. The Board approved their invoice to the Town for payment of \$210.00 each. This should be drawn from the Administrative Assistants' Account.

V. Cormier told the Board that the BoH had received a copy of the plans for Lot 5 #1570 Washington Mountain Road including the septic system. Our agent has already reviewed the septic plans. The lot passed a perk test.
5. **Fracking:** The Board reviewed a letter from Governor Baker advocating for the restriction of fracking in Massachusetts. The letter originated from The

Sierra Club. T. Drugmand asked the Board to endorse the restriction. The Board agreed to endorse the Letter unanimously. J. Huebner will send a copy of the Letter to J. Nelson for printing on Town Letterhead so that the Board can sign next week.

- 6. Online Issuance of Permits:** Last year the Town signed up for one free year of on-line permits. If we were to decide to continue with the service it would cost \$2,000 annually. The Board decided not to continue as our need was not sufficient to justify the cost. J. Huebner will contact the company.
- 7. Summit Hill Bridge :** A young man from Summit Hill asked the Board for an update on the construction on the new bridge. J. Huebner told him that CSX still has not found a flagman available to work on the project. Until that happens the work cannot start. Regarding the mail service, J. Huebner told him that he had asked DOT to underwrite the cost of mailbox rental at the Hinsdale Post Office for Summit Hill residents. They did not refuse and he will follow up with them. As the school term will shortly end for the summer J. Huebner pointed out that school bus service should not be disrupted by the construction. Mary Jarvie asked about conditions on the access road. T. Johnson said that there had not been much progress. Hinsdale didn't black top into Washington.
- 8. Highway Department:** J. Huebner told him that we received the signed contract from the Street Scan Company and gave him a copy. T. Johnson told the Board that he had spoken with a couple of pre-fab bridge providers about the situation on Middlefield Road. We need to get the Middlefield Bridge project completed by the end of this year for less than \$100,000. J. Huebner said that we still need an engineer to certify that the abutments are sound. T. Johnson said that he was quoted \$52,000 for a pre-fab structure from US Bridge which is state certified. J. Huebner asked if they were state certified. He made a motion to send a letter to Nitsch

Engineering rejecting their bid of \$98,000 for Middlefield Road Design work. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding Eden Glen Culvert, J. Huebner said that Maxymillian seems to be working quickly on this project. There may be some problems with pole moving. He will check on this. The culverts should arrive in a couple of weeks. T. Drugmand will review the Weekly Payroll Reports from Maxymillian.

There are no developments on the upper Frost Road culvert.

Regarding Washington Mountain Road , T. Johnson told the Board that Baltazar has been doing a lot of work. They have been following the list in his book. DOT has determined that a section of the road was not completed to specification but will fine the contractor rather than require it to be redone. J. Huebner believed that the fine should be paid to the Town and not to DOT. He will look into this. D. Drugmand pointed out that there was a lot of standing water at Bucksteep. T. Johnson said that Baltazar was going to take care of it.

J. Huebner mentioned receiving a letter from Washington resident Mike Moro which was very critical of Baltazar's work on WMR. The letter called attention to many of the same problems T. Johnson had identified.

J. Huebner will draft a reply to Mr. Moro.

- 9. Town Park:** D. Drugmand announced that he had just been elected Commissioner by the Park Board , Jodi Hostetter, Paul Willis and Mark Roos. Dominick Sinopoli has filled out the form to become a new member of the Parks Commission. Cynthia Grippaldi, though no longer a Washington Resident, has asked to continue as a volunteer to the Park Commission. The Select Board replied that all volunteers are welcome. D. Drugmand also told the Board that he has been working with a group of towns interested in 100% renewable energy. He will report any useful information to the

Town. The Select Board welcomed that. He also announced that he is retiring from his Assistant Sexton's position. Sexton R. Grillon thanked him for his support and assistance with the work. D. Drugmand told the Board that he has been speaking with a potential replacement and that T. Drugmand will give her name to the Sexton. J. Huebner made a motion to accept D. Drugmand's resignation. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. J. Huebner mentioned that the Select Board will meet with Mayor Tyer of Pittsfield on the issue of the cemetery land on June 21.

10. Solarize Mass: D. Spencer told the Board that we do not have enough homes to qualify for the program alone, but if we partner with another town or two we can qualify. S. Nelson said that he thought the program was a good one and worth looking into. He said that if we can join with a couple of other towns the state will help us to negotiate the lowest bid. D. Drugmand supported this approach to bringing solar electricity to Town.

11. Broadband Grant Application: When S. Nelson and K. Lew finished writing our grant application to the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) they sent copies of the document to the Select Board for their review. During brief discussion tonight S. Nelson explained that we will receive \$490,000 to build our network. K. Lew, our Finance Chair, will be the contact person. \$220,000 will cover design and engineering and the remaining \$270,000 will be applied to construction. Westfield Gas & Electric will do the design and engineering. We will then know the cost and will bid out the construction. There are no strings attached. It is a flat out grant. However the Select Board first must pass a Resolution and sign it. To this end, J. Huebner made a motion that the Select Board authorizes acceptance of a Last Mile Infrastructure Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to authorize acceptance was unanimous. The Clerk then applied the Town Seal and certified the vote.

12. **Personnel Policy:** Treasurer Glenn Grogan began a discussion of policy issues affecting the Highway Department. On the topic of vacation time accrual it was agreed that an employee can accrue up to 8 weeks of vacation before starting to lose time. Glenn said that T. Johnson must be close to that 8 weeks now. Tom agreed. He gave some background on how the process was initially misunderstood and miscalculated by the Highway Department. Sick time and vacation pay were also discussed. The question of the best time to cut the vacation pay check was raised. It was agreed that the Personnel Policy Manual needs to be updated. T. Johnson will talk to the Highway Crew and refer them to the Select Board with any questions. There was brief discussion of carrying a gun while on the job. Our understanding of the Board's liability was unclear and J. Huebner said that he will talk this issue over with Town Counsel.
13. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that he needs a signature from the Chair to do the CORI check on Gina Campbell, our new Assistant Tax Collector. J. Huebner signed and completed the form. He asked Chief Breen about changes proposed by the state to Constables' duties and power. Chief said that if a Constable is elected to that post by a town, the Constable is allowed to carry a gun. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to research the changes the state is trying to make. Chief told the Board that on Saturday he will be in a procession for an officer killed in Becket.
14. **Ambulance Service:** Fire Chief Paul Mickaniewicz asked the Board why we changed to County Ambulance from the Becket service. J. Huebner told him that we changed because County will provide the service for free with no fee to the Town. He informed Ed Gibson of our decision. Becket will be secondary to County.
15. **Pole Petition Documents:** S. Nelson reported that he had researched the question with the help of the Clerk and learned that Washington didn't have clear proof of having set aside some space on each pole for "municipal use". If we could prove that in recent time we had routinely filed

“petitions” for municipal space on poles we might have been able to use that space for our broadband fiber and saved some money on “Make Ready”. However that is not the case. The petitions we have on file are very old and few in number.

16. **North Lake:** R. Grillon asked the Board for an update on plans for North Lake. He was wondering about using it as a site for a solar farm. J. Huebner replied that the Board has it as a long-term project. He explained that though we are very pro-solar, there is not sufficient electrical transmission capacity to bring the power out to where it would be used. We need 3-phase lines to carry the power and we do not have that capacity.

17. **Brief Items:** Glenn Grogan advised the Board that he recommends we continue with MIIA membership. He will confirm the cost increase or decrease; the Board received notice of a bankruptcy in Rhode Island perhaps filed by one of our landowners.

18. **Adjournment:** At 8:45 J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Grillon seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson