

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

July 24, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, T. Drugmond and R. Grillon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2017. T. Drugmond seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. **Highway Department:** J. Huebner said that he is working on a MassWorks grant to repair about a half mile of Lovers Lane. Regarding the Eden Glen culvert, he has talked with P. Clark about the outflow. Some questions had been raised last week about the direction of the stream. P. Clark said that the water will flow per his design when the headwalls are done. The contractor on Cross Place Road has made some progress on site cleanup. There is patching to be done on one part of the culvert, along with landscaping. J. Huebner said that he has identified a possible source for funding to clean the debris out of the Eden Glen pond. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service office in Pittsfield will send an agent up to look at the site and to make a decision on the funding.
4. **Washington Mountain Road:** Problems with work impacting residents' driveways still need to be addressed by Baltazar. K. Lew said that Mr. Dorval's driveway is still flooding. The patch that Baltazar laid down has created a moat. They need to level it, but cut off a portion of his lawn instead. T. Johnson will point out this problem and several additional drainage issues to Baltazar. J. Huebner said that we are not signing off on Baltazar's work.

In addition to the drainage issues, they have not yet restored the Old Common as promised at the start of the project. We will purchase chain to hang from granite posts to mark off the parking area. The chain will be

painted to be consistent with the appearance of the Old Town Hall. The chain will be removable so that equipment can pass through the area. Carol Lew and Ed Neumuth will talk to T. Johnson this week about the project. They will buy the chain and and oversee installation by Baltazar.

R. Grillon pointed out that the guard rails Baltazar used on WMR are faulty. In the brief discussion that followed T.Johnson said that he had mentioned this to Baltazar when the rails were installed. However we learned that only DOT could change the guard rail spec and they did not.

5. **Bucksteep Manor:** Following recent reports of activity at Bucksteep J. Huebner drafted a letter to Mr. Lovesey, the owner of the property, reminding him that he cannot use the property for any public purposes until it is ADA compliant and all Board of Health regulations have been satisfied. In his letter J. Huebner observes that as Mr. Loveszy continues, in his own words, to represent the property as being used for the tax-exempt purposes of “therapy, counseling and networking”, the Town is directing its Assessors to return the property to the tax rolls. J. Huebner made a motion that the Board sign the letter as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Middlefield Road Bid opening:** At 7:30 J. Huebner opened the two bids we received for the reconstruction of the bridge. A bid from the BSC Group of Hartford, CT came in at \$70,000. There were questions about several details of the BSC bid including exactly what was covered. The second bid was for \$ 62,250 from Foresight Land Services of Pittsfield and also raised several questions. The \$62,250 was a base charge with possible additional charges that would raise it higher than the BSC quote. The Board chose not to make a decision at this time and will contact the bidders for clarifications.
7. **Beach Stickers:** J. Huebner said that he had reviewed our new, better controlled process for issuing beach stickers with Ed Gibson, Becket Town

Administrator. Mr. Gibson was glad to have this information. J. Huebner stressed the importance of having a good relationship with our neighbor. For the rest of this summer and into the future we will only distribute the stickers from the Clerk's or from the Administrative Assistants' office at Town Hall. Sean Connors pointed out the considerable cost to Becket of hiring staff to manage entry to the beach. We contribute annually to this program.

8. **Summit Hill Road Residents' Post Office Boxes:** J. Hostetter told the Board that we have had 5 families so far respond to DOT's offer of free post office boxes at the Hinsdale Post Office. Chief Breen continues to serve as information officer to residents of Summit Hill.
9. **Eversource Pole Placement Public Hearing:** J. Huebner called the pole placement hearing to order at 8 pm. Town Clerk Allison Mikaniewicz joined the meeting to certify results. The Eversource representative told the Board that 3 poles will be placed to link the property at 882 Lovers Lane to the power grid. The poles will be set in the next couple of weeks. Just one house is involved. J. Huebner made a motion that we approve the pole placement as described in the documentation from Eversource. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. All Board members signed the paperwork and the Clerk certified the results.
10. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter told the Board that she got the 2016 building permits from the Building Inspector for the Assessors and delivered them to Karen Avalle. Per the Select Board's request she sent the completed appointment form for Mike Case as Alternate Representative for Washington to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.
11. **Police:** Town Accountant Dan Parnell told the Board that we have sufficient money in an Emergency Preparedness grant to cover the recently incurred additional charges for our emergency equipment supplies. Those additional charges amount to \$680.00. The Board approved the use of a

portion of the Emergency Preparedness grant money to cover this since that grant is \$2500.00 in total.. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen for the letter discussed last week from the City of Holyoke regarding changes to the emergency communications frequency and its possible impact on our area. The Board needs to sign that letter.

12. Broadband/WiredWest: K. Lew gave the Board a brief update on our progress toward broadband. Our application for funding from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) has been approved. We should see the funding in another week to 10 days. We will not sign the design contract with Westfield Gas and Electric before we have the money. He and S. Nelson will meet with WG&E on August 2 to discuss our contract with them. We might be able to avoid some costs with WG&E because of existing pole survey data. T. Drugmand asked when we might expect to have broadband service in operation. K. Lew gave a rough estimate that Washington will be up and running by the end of 2018. D. Grillon asked if we will be able to wire all poles. K. Lew replied that we hope to do so but that is somewhat dependent on the number of sign-ups for service. To date no Washington residents have withdrawn their deposit from WiredWest. The Board plans to put more information in Tracks as it becomes available.

13. Monthly Select Board Letter: J. Huebner made a motion to approve the Monthly Letter for August Tracks. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson to email the letter to Lisa Guthrie for publication.

14. Cemetery Meeting: Last Wednesday the Select Board met in Pittsfield with Mayor Tyer, the Director of Public Services and the City Solicitor to discuss the question of the 5 acres of land owned by Pittsfield on Washington Mountain Road to be used for a cemetery. We were promised that land 32 years ago in exchange for giving the city permission to build a cell tower on our land. Pittsfield has never honored that promise as we have no

agreement in writing. We have tried in the past to plead our case to several Pittsfield mayors who have turned a deaf ear. R. Grillon, who has been to several of these meetings in the past, said that he thought we got a fair hearing this time. Mayor Tyer and her staff told the Board that they will get back to us.

15. **Personnel Policy:** J. Huebner remarked that we need to get the policy changes discussed in the past month's meetings written up for final review and discussion by the Board. T. Drugmand mentioned that in our discussion we should consider appropriate disciplinary action.

16. **Brief Items:** The Select Board and COA Director approved the Administrative Assistants using the unused Town laptop to record the minutes and for other Town business; Ed Neumuth was appointed Town Moderator last Monday and was sworn in tonight by the Clerk; D. Spencer had no news to report about the Virginia Lakes investigation. J. Hostetter gave him a folder with maps of the lakes' plot plans; J. Huebner said there were no developments on the DLTA grant and no news on a possible Veterans' memorial. The Building Inspector advised any resident seeking to burn coal to discuss it with the Conservation Commission.

17. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. D. Grillon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson