

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen in Washington Town Hall

August 7, 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 made a motion to accept the minutes from July 31, 2017. R. Grillon seconded and the minutes were unanimously accepted as written.
3. **Residents' Concerns:** B. Sweet addressed the Board about his plans for parking the cars of guests expected at his wedding on September 3rd. He expects 150 guests and has made arrangements for guests to be shuttled from the Town Park to his residence off Johnson Hill Road. He has spoken to Chief Breen about this. The ceremony will take place around 3:00pm. He told the Board that he had already filled out the Park Permit Application. J. Huebner confirmed that this was all the paperwork required. Cars would be parked along the entrance road to the transfer station and in the back lot. T. Johnson said they could use the Garage lot for parking too if needed.
4. **Highway Department:** J. Huebner reported that he had submitted an application for a MassWorks grant to re-pave and repair a culvert on Lovers Lane from Frost Road to Schulze Road. Our application asks for \$600,000. J. Huebner signed a letter stating that we are certified to do this. We should have a reply from the state on our application the first week in October. T. Johnson said that he has identified potential grants worth about \$140,000 for the upper Frost Road culvert work. We should hear on this application too in early October. J. Huebner asked him to get an estimate of the cost of completing that repair of the upper Frost Road culvert. T. Johnson confirmed that Cross Place Road still needs to have the culvert crack patched. Work on the Eden Glen culvert is progressing on schedule. Tonight we received the payroll report for Eden Glen culvert from

Maxymillian for the week ending 7/28/17. J. Huebner reported that we have been told that the estimated completion date for work on the Summit Hill Bridge is the first week of November. There was brief discussion on the access road and whether it was being checked often enough. J. Huebner reported that he signed the contract with Foresight Engineering to perform engineering services for repairs to the existing bridge on Middlefield Road over Coles Brook in Washington for the sum of \$30,250, stopping short of the construction phase. We expect that our Small Bridge grant program will pay for this work. Much DOT paperwork will be required. Foresight has requested help from our Highway Crew to excavate the bottom of the stream to assist with evaluation of the condition of the abutments. R. Grillon mentioned that the condition of Upper Sargent Road, which had been poor, has deteriorated further. It appears to need grading at least. T. Johnson will look into the situation. He reported that the Johnson Hill Road culvert will be black topped. The DOT walk-through of Washington Mountain Road took place last Tuesday. Four issues were identified. 27 signs were placed too close to the road for our plows to clear. J. Huebner asked that they be moved. A culvert had been blocked at residence # 1570. A new beaver pond had been created due to flooding on Watson Road. Four thousand feet of road bed was identified as sub-standard. DOT will go after Lane paving to fix it. J. Huebner summed up these issues in a letter to DOT.

5. **Town Common:** Restoration of the Common is being finished by Carol Lew and Ed Neumuth. The chains will be spray painted after they are mounted on the granite posts to mark off the parking area on the Common. The posts will be masked before being painted.

6. **Tax Collector:** Melissa Martinetto, our elected Tax Collector, and Gina Campbell, Assistant Collector, joined the meeting. They have been working together on the billing and collection needs of the Town. Melissa told the Select Board that she must resign her position for personal reasons. She will stay on until the Town no longer needs her as signatory. When Melissa

does actually leave her post, the Board will appoint Gina Campbell, who has considerable collection experience, to the Collector's post. The transition should be smooth, with Peggy DiSantis perhaps assuming the Assistant Collector's position. J. Huebner asked Gina to bring Peggy with her to meet with the Board next Monday. He will consult with Town Counsel on how best to handle this situation. The topic will be on next week's agenda.

7. **State Regulation of Marijuana Business:** J. Huebner reported receiving notice of a meeting next week to inform towns of the new state policy governing the recreational marijuana business. He will forward that information to M. Wiley of the Planning Board.
8. **Police:** Chief Breen gave the City of Holyoke Notice of emergency frequency change to the Select Board. J. Huebner filled out the form. Chief Breen reported Bucksteep quiet. The 50 boxes of emergency supplies have been delivered per our grant. He has learned that Middlefield has a new Emergency manager and will contact him to discuss that town's preparedness plan. He said that Hinsdale has shared no emergency plans yet on either trains or propane tanks.
9. **Light pollution complaint:** T. Drugmand reported receiving a letter from a resident of Washington Mountain Road who complained that the bright perimeter lights installed at Purzee's farm prevent her from getting a restful night's sleep. The lights shine directly into her bedroom and several other rooms. She also objected to the noise from gunfire on the Pugzee property. She feels that these intrusive practices have deprived her of the peaceful enjoyment of her property which she has occupied for 30 years. The neighbor on the other side of the Pugzee property has similar complaints. K. Lew checked our bylaws and found no specific light pollution ban, though we do have noise limits and ban "excessive nuisance". T. Drugmand gave the letter to J. Huebner.

10. **Assessors:** K. Avalle joined the meeting. There was brief discussion of the possible transfer of Bucksteep's title to a new owner. This was not confirmed. There was also discussion about the tax status of Upper Beach Road and E. Shapira's using it as private property. It was agreed that if it is confirmed as part of his property we must see that he is taxed accordingly.
11. **Board of Selectmen's Annual Report Letter:** J. Huebner made a motion to approve the Board's Annual Letter. T. Drugmand seconded and the letter was approved unanimously.
12. **Mass DOT town contact request:** J. Huebner asked the Administrative Assistant to complete and return the DOT Town Contact Information form to Francisca Heming, District Highway Director.
13. **Conservation Commission:** Michelle Lampro, Chair of the Commission was asked by the Board to research state law regarding burning coal for heating in residential areas. She learned that it is illegal to do so. Mr. Leonard Bennett of South Washington State Road had asked the Select Board several weeks ago if it was legal to burn coal in this way. M. Lampro will forward the state information to Mr. Leonard.
14. **Virginia Lakes:** There was brief discussion of The Nature Conservancy's interest in purchasing the former development. There was speculation that TNC would want to take down the dam if they did so.
15. **Stumpage:** K. Lew will look into the new cutting in the Pittsfield watershed. We need to track this to be sure that we get paid. Both he and the Conservation Commission should have gotten copies of the cutting plan.
16. **WiredWest/ Broadband:** S. Nelson told the Board that due to some state bureaucratic inefficiency involving the end of FY 2017 and the start of 2018 our payment of \$490,000 from the state has been delayed a bit. Bill Ennen, our liaison from the Office of Housing and Economic Development, has

assured S. Nelson and K. Lew that all is still moving ahead though more slowly than expected. He urged us to go ahead and sign the design contract with Westfield Gas and Electric to get that process started. J. Huebner said that he had reviewed the contract in detail and was satisfied that it had been carefully vetted. He made a motion to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement with Westfield Gas and Electric. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The contract was duly signed.

K. Lew said that starting on 10/10 we will begin a process to collect further data on our poles and the premises they serve. That is the next step for us. S. Nelson asked the Board to support the MOU which confirms our decision to work through Wired West to manage our broadband network. Having discussed the MOU over several weeks now, J. Huebner made a motion to approve S. Nelson's signing of the MOU for the Town as written. S. Nelson is our Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. S. Nelson signed the MOU.

17. Adjournment: J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to adjourn carried unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson