

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

August 21, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 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 August 14, 2017. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. **Highway Department:** There was discussion of work still to be completed on Washington Mountain Road (WMR). T. Johnson told the Board that he has come up with a solution to Mr. Dorval's driveway drainage problem and that he will talk to Baltazar about doing the work next week. After further discussion with DOT about the location of the road signs they had installed along Washington Mountain Road, T. Johnson reported that DOT has refused to help with the relocation of those signs. Following instructions from DOT, Baltazar installed the signs too close to the road for our plows to clear in the winter. Apparently they followed the federal not the state spec on signage distance from the highway. Our Highway crew will relocate the signs. We expect a warranty from Lane for the 4000 feet of roadway exhibiting a "W" pattern. The Highway Department has improved the condition of Upper Sargent Road. The Summit Hill Road bridge project will not be completed before school opens again. Eden Glen culvert will be completed in October, but may require some re-routing of school buses before it is finished. J. Huebner reported receiving the Eden Glen culvert payroll report from Maxymillian for the period 8/5 to 8/11. He asked T. Johnson to check with Foresight Engineering on the condition of the Middlefield Road bridge abutments. J. Huebner said that he is looking for funding for the repair of the Upper Frost Road culvert. It appears that there may not be as much money available as we had expected. Maxymillian has given us a quote to pave Frost Road between the culvert

and Rt. 8. T. Johnson has not ordered the new truck yet. They are still negotiating trade-in value.

4. **Transfer Station:** J. Huebner reported receiving email from Bill Cawley regarding transfer station operations. He forwarded it on to M. Lampro and asked her to keep him informed of developments. T. Johnson told the Board that he had looked at the recycling bins and discovered a way to repair and secure the metal bin making it easier for White Wolf to maneuver their trucks in the Transfer Station yard.
5. **Virginia Lakes:** R. Spencer, Chair of the Virginia Lakes working group, told the Board that he has not yet had a reply from Town Counsel to his inquiry about our legal position regarding both Town and privately held land in that area. He has drafted a detailed letter to owners of property whom we can identify in Berkshire Mountain Lakes Development Unit 2 (Virginia Lakes) informing them that the Town has undertaken a review of properties in the area. After discussion of the complexities involved in this process, including who owns the roads, it was decided to delay sending the letter until the issues had been discussed with Counsel.
6. **COA:** COA Director Steve DeLoye presented the annual COA contract from the state to the Board for signing. J. Huebner did so.
7. **Assessors:** Assessor Consultant K. Avalle and assessor G. Viner joined the meeting. J. Huebner congratulated them on successfully completing the Town's certification to the state. Thanks to their efforts Washington is one of the first to be certified this year. They joined the meeting to discuss the U. S. Census process which the Town must now begin. This is a federal requirement that must be repeated every ten years. K. Avalle told the Board that much of the work can be done online and that her department will take the lead in the effort. She said that there will be a workshop on the process in October. J. Huebner told her that he will complete part one

of the form and give it to her. He estimated that it will require 20 hours of work to complete the Census process.

8. **Bucksteep Manor:** K. Avelle told the Board that she has put Bucksteep back on the tax rolls, as requested. At last week's Select Board meeting it was agreed that the property had become an attractive nuisance. K. Lew commented that we have to analyze the situation with Bucksteep and mitigate the Town's risks. J. Huebner added that a letter sent in July via Certified Mail by the Board to the Bucksteep owner, Mr. Lovezy, at the Washington address informing him of our concerns, was recently returned unopened after three attempts at delivery. The same letter had been sent by Certified Mail to the business address of Mr. Lovezy's non-profit entity, Family Unity International in New York with no reply. Building Inspector Paul Greene had checked on the property and reported to K. Avelle that it looked like people were there but no one answered the door. J. Huebner said that Paul Greene and Chief Breen would visit the property together.

9. **Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that a number of Town Hall key-holders were not properly locking the building. He believes that this is due to people not turning the lock to the left before arming the system. He will work with J. Hostetter to get signage made and detailed instructions posted.

Chief Breen also reported that he had finally received information on the Hinsdale emergency plan for dealing with an explosion of the propane storage tank on our northern border. Steve DeLoye, one of our Emergency Managers, said that he is familiar with the Hinsdale plan. The State Marshall wrote that plan and supervised installation of the tank. S. DeLoye described in some detail the damage to the area predicted in the plan. Also mentioned was as a series of shut-off valves designed to minimize gas leakage. R. Spencer expressed his opinion that the plan underestimated the impact of a major gas explosion on the area.

- 10. Pugzee's Farm:** J. Huebner reported receiving a call from E. Shapira in response to our letter of last week informing him of a complaint from one of his abutters. In her letter to the Board the abutter complained that bright light entered her home from Mr. Shapira's perimeter lighting every night preventing her from getting a good night's sleep and otherwise interfering with her enjoyment of her home of 30 years. J. Huebner said that the conversation was cordial and productive. Mr. Shapira agreed to reduce the light burden on his neighbors.
- 11. Broadband/WiredWest:** J. Huebner also reported receiving a letter from the Office of the Governor officially notifying the Town of Washington that we have been awarded "a Last Mile Infrastructure grant in the amount of \$ 490,000 to support the design, engineering and construction of a municipally-owned broadband network". The letter was signed by Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Karen Polito.
- 12. Stuart Coyle Letter:** J. Huebner issued a memo to the Select Board informing them regarding Mr. Coyle's letter of 8/7/17 and stated his recommendation that the Board acknowledge but not respond to Mr. Coyle's letter other than to express strong support for our Highway crew. Going forward he recommended that T. Johnson use his discretion to handle any further interactions with Mr. Coyle " with the caveat that Mr. Coyle be referred back to the Board for anything even vaguely resembling policy."
- 13. Frost Road Cutting Plan:** J. Huebner told the Board that Mr. Wells came to see him today and told him that someone is going to log the 19 acres on Frost Road owned by Maureen Borgnis. V. Cormier, member of our Board of Health, told J. Huebner that she had a report from DEP on that land. She will get him a copy of the report.
- 14. Brief Items:** J. Huebner said that there are no developments in the DLTA grant program for shared services. There has been no activity on the

proposed veterans' memorial. We have had a message from Pittsfield Mayor Tyer's office that she is preparing a letter for us regarding the promised 5 acres of cemetery land on Washington Mountain Road.

15.Adjournment: T. Drugmand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. J. Huebner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson