

## Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

October 2, 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 9/25/17. D. Grillon seconded and the motion was accepted unanimously.
3. **Building Maintenance Coordinator:** After review of the revised job description J. Huebner motioned to adopt the job description of the Building Maintenance Coordinator as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion was accepted unanimously.

Matt Thomas informed the Board that he would like to approach the position by dedicating a few hours two or three days a week on tasks and write up estimates for proposed work. He reported on the building site visit conducted with Ed Bond. There are a couple of windows in the Chapel that may need attention in the future and seasonal cleaning of the cutters, the Old Town Hall roof is going to need both a short and long term fix. He will tar and shingle the damaged area before the next rain and obtain an estimate for a metal roof. K. Lew will look for the estimate submitted in the past by E. Bond. He will need more time to assess the Town Hall but noticed the handicap ramp will need rebuilding. The Old Red School house does not need any maintenance at this time.

After a discussion about the condition of the smoke detectors at the Town Hall, returning the faulty one's and the number of detectors required the Board decided to consult Fire Chief P. Mikaniewicz for recommendations.

4. **Open Forum:** Becket Officer N. Miller reported on the success of the Cops and Rodders car show held at the town park. It was a beautiful day with 93 show cars on display. There were around 700 attendees earning the fundraiser close to four thousand dollars for the children's Christmas party. She will send J. Hostetter the sign-up link to this year's event to be held in the Becket Chimney Corners dining center on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board thanked her for the update and for making this an annual event at the Town Park.

Resident P. Blake submitted to the Board suggestions for generating revenue for the town. There was discussion on working with BRPC, preparing a master plan, surveying residents, zoning for commercial property. J. Huebner will schedule a Capital Asset meeting to discuss further.

5. **Highway Department:** J. Huebner reported that Foresight Engineering determined the Middlefield Road bridge abutments could not be used and recommended using a concrete or aluminum open bottom culvert which would incorporate some of the existing abutments. They will provide a cost estimate for that recommendation.

J. Huebner reported that the Town received confirmation of a \$37,750.00 grant awarded for the design and engineering of the culvert on upper Frost Road. The amount applied for was based off a cost estimate provided by Foresight Engineering. T. Johnson will seek additional cost estimates. There Work has to be completed before June 30, 2018 after which T. Johnson will apply for another grant to cover the construction cost. There was a brief discussion on the cost savings of horizontal boring.

Summit Hill Road bridge project should be complete in three weeks.

J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of the Maxymillian's contractors report through 9/22/2017.

D. Grillon reported that DOT was spotted inspecting J. Dorval's driveway.

T. Johnson reported that for the first time, there was a report for Lovers Lane included in the DOT bridge inspection report package. It now qualifies for a small bridge grant which can be applied for once the Middlefield Road bridge project is completed. Other bridges need repair. He will contact a well-known bridge repair company to join him on site visits and assist in preparing a repair and maintenance plan.

J. Huebner recapped the MassMoves report prepared by DOT summarizing a study of transportation in the Commonwealth. The key findings are that no one likes the transportation system and want elected officials to make public transportation a higher priority. People are willing to pay higher taxes for the service.

6. **Broadband/WiredWest:** K. Lew reminded the Board that next Tuesday is the kickoff meeting with Westfield Gas & Electric. T. Drugmand volunteered to attend. Since data collection is underway the design phase is the next stage. There was discussion on the including areas without proper pole presence in design. There was a brief discussion on shifting the debt burden onto the user fee and using retained earnings to subsidize individuals.

K. Lew informed the Board that Westfield Gas & Electric has started to schedule regular meetings with the utility companies to keep the issues in the conversation. The first meeting will focus on opening the line of communication. Later meetings resolve specific town needs.

7. **Town Hall Meeting with Lieutenant Governor:** The roundtable discussion with Lt. Governor Kayrn Polito was a success with a dozen members of the community attending plus a panel of a dozen including Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Pignatelli. The discussion was good, the room was setup accordingly and the cookies baked by Heather Anello Spencer were delicious. Radio station WAMC recorded the event. J. Huebner drafted a thank you letter that included a reminder of the Eversource and Verizon issue as well as other points of interest to the Town. J. Huebner motioned to accept the thank you letter as written. D. Grillon seconded and the motioned passed unanimously.

8. **Solar Energy:** D. Spencer informed the Board that during a Finance subcommittee meeting he attended it was announced that the CBRSD brokered a deal with owners of the Churchill Street solar array that would provide a 17% rate reduction. The Town could broker a similar deal. D. Spencer will find out who the Board should contact.

9. **Virginia Lakes Working Group:** D. Spencer reported that the group decided that Attorney Jeremia Pollard will represent the town's objectives regarding the Virginia Lakes properties. He has not received a response to the email outlining the town need earlier sent earlier today. D. Spencer would like to meet with the attorney to lay out what the group has and discuss the two areas of concern. The Treasurer's Tax Title Account will be used for the legal bills. There was also a discussion on acceptance of two parcels offer as gifts to the town. K. Lew will provide the contact information and details for the Board to reach out.

10. **Wildlife:** R. Spencer submitted for the Boards signatures a Form W-9 and a DCR Cost-Share Grant Application covering both a Forest Stewardship Plan and

Foresters for the Birds Program to conduct a bird habitat assessment of the 43.4 acres on S. Washington State Road. He will be walking the property on Wednesday morning with Ed Neumuth and State Forester Pete River. J. Huebner signed both forms. J. Hostetter will mail the forms.

11. **Tax Collector:** G. Campbell will attend a meeting with the Community Software Consortium. J. Huebner will review the grant proposal and filing deadlines.

12. **Brief Items:** J. Huebner approved payment of \$280.00 for the October 26<sup>th</sup> Berkshire County Selectmen's Association dinner, approved payment of \$2,272.10 to Foresight Land Services for work done on the Middlefield Road Bridge project and confirmed that the Cain Hibbard letter was sent to Town Counsel.

The Nurses are planning on going on strike with management adding a couple extra days using a lock out.

D. Grillon will ask about the playground equipment in the rear of the Town Hall that was purchased with a grant from Head Start at the next Head Start Board of Directors meeting.

Tom Matuszko believes he can provide the town with a Procurement Officer. During a Financial and strategic services discussion K. Lew cited an example of Franklin County using a shared Accounting Officer and Treasurer that is located in a single location. He will send J. Huebner a link to research the topic further.

13. **Events:** J. Huebner reported that the Governing Board of the BPHA did not have a meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> due to a lack of quorum.

J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to advertise the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7, flu clinic on the sandwich boards outside the Town Hall and Transfer Station. The Council on Aging will hold its monthly dinner on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen Association dinner is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Pumpkin Walk is on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Both members of the Board of Health will attend the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association fall dinner at the Berkshire Country Health on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Seven Town Meeting will be held at Wahconah High School at 6:00 on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Items:** T. Johnson has the poles and signs for the Transfer Station. He is waiting for positioning instructions from M. Lampro. The detour sign retrieval is a lost cause. The bump in Cross Place Road has been fixed. There is nothing new to

report on the Veterans Memorial or the Borgnis Landfill. The Board set the billable hour rate for M. Thomas of \$45.00 per hour.

14. **Cemetery Land:** J. Huebner read a letter from the City of Pittsfield’s Attorney Richard M. Dohoney that informed the Board that the City of Pittsfield is prepared to move forward with the transfer of land on Beach Road. Requesting survey of the land in recording form for submission to the City Council. The Department of Public Utilities would review and approve the survey before it’s finalized. J. Huebner will review the file and reach out to Mr. Dohoney.

15. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Respectfully submitted, Jodi Hostetter