

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

October 30, 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 October 23, 2017 as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to accept the Selectmen's minutes was unanimous.
3. **Open Forum for Residents:** A resident reported an ongoing problem with bags of garbage and trash such as old appliances, being dumped behind the Woody's building on Route 8 near his home. He asked that the Town clean it up. The Board was not aware of this problem. J. Huebner said that he will ask the Board of Health Inspector to take a look at the site and report back.
4. **Tax Collection:** J. Huebner signed a Memorandum of Understanding to agree to participate in the grant application for the Community Software Consortium to develop a new Tax Collector software solution.
5. **Highway:** J. Huebner signed an authorization for our Highway Superintendent, Tom Johnson, to bid and sell equipment for the Town of Washington within his budget parameters. T. Johnson said that he is actively trying to sell our surplus equipment and has items online at an auction site. J. Huebner reported receiving from MassDOT a signed copy of the official notice to proceed with the reconstruction of the Middlefield Road Bridge. We were awarded \$250,000 under the Small Bridge Program. Our engineer on the project, Foresight Engineering has concluded that as the existing abutments are not in acceptable condition, an additional \$250,000 will be needed to replace them and complete the project. J. Huebner said that in the next calendar year we will work to get Middlefield Road on the TIP list for construction. T. Johnson told the Board that work on the Eden Glen culvert should be complete this week. J. Huebner

reported receiving the weekly Eden Glen payroll report from Maxymillian for the period 10/7/17 through 10/13/17. J. Huebner and T. Johnson reported receiving bridge inspection reports from Francisca Heming, Director, District One, MassDOT for Lower Valley/Depot Brook culvert, Lower Sargent/Depot Brook and for Cross Place Road/Unnamed brook culvert. The condition of the new Cross Place Road bridge was rated highly. DOT noted numerous problems with the other two bridges which are currently closed by the Town. The Board briefly discussed the reported condition of our bridges. T. Johnson told the Board that the crew has not yet moved the highway signs on Washington Mountain Road back from the road edge. The Highway Superintendent and Board agreed that Upper Valley Road is slowly sinking.

6. **Administrative Assistants:** The Administrative Assistants were asked to get a quote from Dell on upgrading all of the Town's computers to Windows 10 to better interface with current operating systems and software. The quote came in at a total of \$682.00. The Select Board did not approve the purchase since J. Les does not favor it. The Administrative Assistants were asked to forward a customer service survey form from Zip 'N Sort Mail Services to Michelle Beemer and Lisa Guthrie. New liquor license procedures have been received from the state by the Administrative Assistants.

7. **Pumpkin Walk:** Chief Breen reported that an estimated 950 people attended this year's Pumpkin Walk on Friday the 27th. He estimated that over 300 cars came and went during the celebration. Chief Breen said that extra police had been added for the evening as a precaution against any disruption. A suspicious communication was received in the prior week and will be followed up on by the State Police. They will inform the Town if any relevant information is uncovered. The State Police congratulated the Town on its good sense in reporting the incident promptly to them. Chief Breen mentioned that a resident had removed the pumpkin stands from the Town

Park the next morning by mistake and had been instructed to return them. They are the Town's property.

8. **Energy:** J. Huebner reported receiving from the state Department of Public Utilities the petition of Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities for ten long-term contracts for purchase of renewable energy and renewable energy certificates from ten individual renewable energy projects. J. Huebner said that he will be calling Mike Knapic for information on renewable energy options for the Town.

9. **Professional Meetings:** J. Huebner reported receiving an invitation to a Small Town Summit to be held at Goshen Town Hall on November 7 at 7:00pm. K. Lew and R. Grillon expressed interest in attending. J. Huebner attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting last week in Pittsfield. He learned nothing of interest to the Town as we have no projects active at present. The Berkshire County Selectmen's Association dinner took place last week and our entire Board plus the spouses of J. Huebner and T. Drugmand also attended. Before the Dinner Lt. Governor Polito spoke. She gave an update on the school/education task force's work, covering the consolidation of school districts driven by declining enrollments and the financial necessity of sharing staff and services. She also touched on broadband, town budget challenges and the opioid crisis. J. Huebner said that the Board had been invited to the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Meeting on January 19 and 20 in Boston. There will be a Berkshire County Board of Health (BCBOHA) meeting next week. The Seven Town Advisory Committee will meet on November 16 at 6:00pm at Wahconah.

10. **Building Maintenance Coordinator:** Matt Taylor told the Board that he continues to work at getting a good estimate on installing a metal roof on the Old Town Hall. D. Spencer mentioned that he had gotten a \$7000 quote on installing one on his barn roof. M. Taylor mentioned that he has a quote for about \$10,000 now. That was the last quote Ed Bond had gotten.

11. **Treasurer:** J. Huebner passed along to Treasurer Glenn Grogan a brochure on municipal insurance from a new vendor, the Gowrie Group.

12. **Adjournment:** At 7: 30 J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting and to open the Meeting on Capital Assets. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson