

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

November 6, 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 30, 2017. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it was accepted unanimously.
3. **Highway:** Tom Johnson told the Board he has received official notification that the Summit Hill bridge will open on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. DOT has not responded to our recent request for more funding to complete reconstruction of the Middlefield Road bridge. Mr. Dorval from Washington Mountain Road (WMR) was attending the meeting and asked T. Johnson if they could meet to discuss the Town's plans to repair the damage done by Baltazar to his driveway. They agreed to meet on site at 10:00 am. tomorrow. Mr. Dorval stated that he wants to be sure the corner of his property which was cut off by Baltazar is restored. T. Johnson told the Board that he had received more information from DOT about the paving problems on WMR. K. Lew asked Tom Johnson about the snow fences which the Highway Department is putting up along WMR and further back from the road in the large, open pasture adjacent to the Lew's property. T. Johnson said that they plan to put up 2 or 3 rows of snow fencing, each one 300' long. This is heavier grade fencing than the Town has used in the past. He expects that this stronger fencing will do a better job of controlling the drifting onto WMR from the pasture and so keep the road clear and safer in addition to saving on overtime pay to the road crew. R. Grillon suggested that we could plant trees in the large pasture to reduce the amount of drifting. Abutter K. Lew strongly objected to that suggestion. The Eden Glen culvert replacement on Frost Road has been completed. J. Huebner reported receiving the certified Maxymilian payroll report for the period 10/14 to 10/20. He believes this may be the final report. T. Johnson told the

Board that he has placed some of our surplus used equipment for sale at online auction sites. He will monitor activity on the sites. The highway crew will continue the Fall grading of town roads.

- 4. Software Upgrade:** J. Huebner made a motion to approve the purchase of 5 licenses for VLA Windows PRO 10 software for \$682.60. The upgrade will increase the security of the Town's financial data and interface more easily with modern municipal software currently in use. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 5. Software Development Program:** Last week the Select Board approved our participation in the development of new, less costly municipal accounting software by the Community Software Consortium (CSC). J. Huebner signed an MOU agreeing to participate in the grant application. Tax Collector Gina Campbell added her signature to the document tonight and took the MOU to scan and email to the CSC.
- 6. Police:** Chief Breen explained to the Select Board that T. Johnson is assisting him to obtain a grant to purchase a computer that will be dedicated to issuing permits and licensing. A technician will come out from Boston to set up the computer. Chief Breen said that we have needed this capability for some time now. Finance Committee Chair K. Lew asked to be kept up to date on this purchase for the budget.
- 7. Board of Health:** On November 13<sup>th</sup> Chief Breen will accompany our Board of Health Inspector to investigate the site behind Woody's on Route 8 where trash is said to have been dumped regularly. They will also do an inspection of Bucksteep on that day. Building Inspector Paul Greene has inspected both sites. Chief Breen has permission from the property owner to check regularly on the condition of the Bucksteep property.
- 8. Bucksteep:** K. Lew mentioned that Bucksteep has not paid any property taxes, even though they were put back on the tax rolls. They have not yet

accumulated any penalty. Once they do we can take a lien against the property.

9. **Summit Hill Campground:** The Campground has received a Notice of Noncompliance from DEP for their water source. They must have satisfied the DEP requirements for a potable water supply to operate next year.
10. **Town Forest/Virginia Lakes:** D. Spencer told the Board that he and Ed Neumuth probably won't get started on the Town Forest study until Spring. Regarding the Virginia Lakes project, D. Spencer said that he has not had any response yet to the letters sent two weeks ago to property owners. He is waiting to hear from Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard on the legality of the roads. Tax Collector Gina Campbell told the Board that A. Petro, whose land is on the Middlefield Road parcel, is up to date on his taxes. Another owner is also paying taxes and had offered to donate the parcel to the Town. Several of the owners have contacted Gina. J. Huebner said that we must consult Town Counsel on the tax-taking process.
11. **Five acres of cemetery land:** J. Huebner said that we still have not received the land survey for which we paid the surveyor. He did not know what was causing the delay.
12. **Broadband:** K. Lew told the Select Board that there are no current developments on the broadband front.
13. **Renewable Energy:** J. Huebner said that he has scheduled Jim Barry, of the DOER, to present a program on renewable energy at 7:00pm next Monday at the start of the Selectmen's Meeting. The Chair requested that sandwich boards be set up at Town Hall and at the Transfer Station announcing the program.
14. **Group Purchasing Program:** J. Huebner authorized payment of \$600 for our share of the program. The City of North Adams is the new manager of

this county-wide program which saves money on municipal purchases like sand and salt for its members.

**15. Strategic Planning Preparation:** J. Huebner led a discussion of the strategic planning process based on an outline which was distributed to attendees. The formation of a “Town Future Committee” was decided upon. J. Huebner said that he will write a letter about the Committee and the Strategic Planning work for the December Tracks and ask for volunteers. He hopes that the Planning Board will be involved. A number of people have already expressed interest. K. Lew will pull together reading material on the details of the process.

**16. Brief Items:** J. Huebner signed the Cultural Committee grant paperwork. J. Hostetter is heading up the Committee now; Glenn Grogan joined the meeting briefly to confirm that as Veteran’s day falls on Saturday this year, there will be no Monday holiday on the 13<sup>th</sup>; Fire alarms at Town Hall are to be checked by our Fire Chief Paul Mikaniewicz.

**17. Meetings:** BCBOHA fall dinner will be held at the Pittsfield Country Club on 11/9; The Seven Town Advisory Committee will meet at Waconah at 6pm on 11/16.

**18. Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

19. Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson