

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

November 13, 2017

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and R. Grillon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from November 13, 2017. D. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Green Communities Presentation:** J. Huebner introduced Jim Barry, Western Regional Coordinator, Green Communities Division of the Mass Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Mr. Barry , a western Mass resident, presented an overview of the state’s programs to help communities “create a clean, affordable and resilient energy future for the Commonwealth”. The Green Communities Division offers municipalities technical assistance and grants through several state programs.

Programs discussed included: the Municipal Energy /Insight energy tracking and analysis tool; Green Communities Designation and Grant Program; and Municipal Energy Efficiency Program. Mr. Barry encouraged anyone interested in learning about the programs to explore the Green Communities Division web site at :

www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities

Of particular interest to the Select Board were the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grants. These can be used to hire Technical Assistance for Solar Projects. The META program also includes a small grant program to assist with energy planning and implementation through BRPC. They will provide assistance with RFP writing.

There was brief discussion of Solarize Mass which is a group purchasing program for towns which partner to achieve economies of scale in solar

installations on individual homes. Mr. Barry said that though that program is winding down, there is still time to partner with neighboring towns to take advantage of the cost savings. So far 58 towns have participated and 3400 homes have converted to solar electricity.

Mr. Barry mentioned that the Stretch Codes which govern residential construction standards for Green Communities are no longer much of a stretch. For 2 ½ years now a new base energy code has been in effect. The new stretch code only applies to NEW residential construction and exempts additions, renovations and repairs. J. Huebner said that we should put the Green Communities Designation issue back on the ATM agenda this year.

4. **Highway:** T. Johnson requested clarification on the process for billing Hinsdale for last winter's plowing. J. Huebner advised him to speak to Accountant Dan Parnell about this matter. He said that he would follow up with Dan. He told the Board that he has an appointment tomorrow to meet with a contractor on site regarding the upper Frost Road culvert construction. J. Huebner asked him to get a few other quotes. J. Huebner mentioned that the Summit Hill Bridge is open for traffic and looks nice. T. Johnson said that Mr. Dorval of Washington Mountain Road has decided to wait for Spring to have the Town work on his driveway. T. Johnson reported that his efforts to sell some of our used, surplus equipment have been successful. The items which he had placed in the online auction have sold for \$3385. He told the Board that he is getting quotes for the signage on Washington Mountain Road. He will use the Single Lane Bridge sign for Summit Hill Road. He plans to put more snow fence on Washington Mountain Road tomorrow.

J. Huebner reported that he received a Final Payroll Report and Invoice from Maxymillian for the Eden Glen culvert.

5. **Town Building Maintenance:** Matt Thomas told the Select Board that a storm window on the old South Center School on Washington Mountain

Road had blown off in the recent severe wind storm. He will repair and re-mount the window. He plans to continue the work at the Transfer Station.

6. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Huebner mentioned that we have had no news on the survey plan for the cemetery land granted by Pittsfield. J. Hostetter will follow up with a call to the survey company tomorrow. She reported that she had ordered the Windows 10 software as approved by the Select Board.
7. **Parks Commission:** Member Jodi Hostetter told the Board that the Commission will be creating a skating pond in the Park this winter. T. Johnson is helping with this effort. The pond will be made on the flat section of the soccer field. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on December 2 this year. She will put a notice about the ceremony in Tracks. Sandwich boards will also be put up to announce the tree lighting.
8. **Police:** J. Huebner asked that Chief Breen help draft a new Police Procedural Plan for emergencies. We must tell the Sherriff's Office how we want to be notified. Chief Breen said that the State Police get notified first and that he should be notified second. He does help them out if they ask for assistance. 911 calls go to State Police headquarters in Northampton. J. Huebner said that we must send a clear draft of the procedure to Northampton and to the Sheriff. When Chief Breen has finished writing up the procedure the Select Board will sign it. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to update K. Lew on the new licensing computer he bought with T. Johnson's help.
9. **Virginia Lakes:** Dick Spencer reported that we have not had much response to the recent mailing to 20+ Virginia Lakes property owners. Among those replying, four parties have offered their properties to the Town. He is waiting for a response from the Nature Conservancy. They are still interested but the level of interest is uncertain. D. Spencer continues in discussion with Town Counsel on how to respond to the offers to donate

land. Administrative Assistant J. Nelson mentioned that another owner had called today to discuss sale of his property. She will forward the contact information to D. Spencer for follow up.

10. Borgnis Landfill: J. Huebner said that the Town has a responsibility for dealing with the old landfill. We are out of compliance with DEP regulations. Becket does not want to be involved. At this point we can't tell what may be happening subsurface at the site. We don't know what might be down there. He was told that it would cost about \$50,000 to evaluate the landfill. He is looking into a USDA grant for evaluation and closure of the landfill.

11. Westfield Wild and Scenic: J. Huebner announced that there will be a meeting of the Westfield River Committee on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 in Becket Town Hall.

12. Middlefield Road Bridge: J. Huebner reported that we have received an invoice from our engineer, Foresight Land Service, Inc. for their professional design services on the Middlefield Road Bridge for the period 9/1/2017 through 10/31/2017 : These services were listed as: Proposed Bridge Review and Summary; Design Plan Prep DOT Chpt. 85 Bridge Review; Wetlands Protection Act Permitting ; Construction Plan Preparation and Bid Phase Services. The invoice total was \$ 2,276.00. J. Huebner signed the invoice Approved to Pay.

13. Board of Health: As Chair of the Town's Board of Health, J. Huebner signed a letter to Summit Hill Campground informing them of their obligation to bring their potable water supply into compliance with DEP required quality standards before the Town can issue their operating permit for next year. DEP had issued the Campground a Notice of Noncompliance on October 5, 2017. In their Notice DEP describes the requirements for compliance in detail.

Planned inspections of Woody's and Bucksteep did not take place because the Inspector told Chief Breen that she must inform the property owners first or risk trespassing charges. J. Huebner said that he will speak with the Inspector about this.

14. Shared services invoices from Becket: J. Huebner approved several invoices from Becket for payment. They were as follows: For October payment of Washington's portion of the Vocational School Transportation bill: \$286.31; For FY 2018 use of Becket Town Beach: \$2,500; For Fire Protection Services July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018: \$ 10,000.

15. Planning for Washington's Future: J. Huebner had written a revised description of the proposed Strategic Planning Process discussed at last week's Capital Assets meeting. The revision will be reviewed next Monday, 11/20.

16. Small Town Summit Meeting: K. Lew and R. Grillon attended the recent Summit Meeting in Goshen. R. Grillon said that many towns have shown interest in this concept. There will be another meeting in Florida in January.

17. Brief Items: There is no news on broadband currently. However, after the 11/15 Wired West Board meeting we will have an update; There is some movement toward getting a procurement officer. T. Matuszko of BRPC has sent out a questionnaire to other towns aimed at identifying any interested parties; There will be a meeting of the 7 Town Advisory Committee at Wahconah on 11/16 at 6:00pm.

18. Adjournment: J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. D. Grillon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson