

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

December 11, 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 from December 4, 2017. R. Grillon seconded and the decision to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. **Board of Health, Berkshire Public Health Alliance ( BPHA):** Washington Board of Health (BOH) member Jan Huebner told the Select Board that the BOH has completed its review of our public health files, and updated and organized the information for more efficient access. She showed the Select Board forms developed by the BPHA which the BOH has been using. The BPHA is our public health service provider. The Select Board and D. Spencer examined the various forms. These permit/application forms covered the following processes: Well construction; Private Well Certificate of Compliance; Application for Permit to Install Private Sewage Disposal Systems; and Application for a Disposal Works Construction Permit. The Board briefly discussed putting some of these forms on the Town website with no decision at this time. J. Huebner mentioned that Charlie Kaniecki, our Board of Health Inspector for the last 2 years, has retired. The BPHA has replaced him as our BOH Inspector with Jayne Smith.
4. **Becket Washington Community Alliance (BWCA):** Laurel Burgwardt of the Becket Federated Church, told the Board that the Church is interested in holding a car show and “Old Time Country Fair” in our park this summer. She discussed having a rain date for the event. The Board referred her to the Park Commission for further information and to submit an application to hold the event. They also told her that she should speak with Chief Breen.

**5. Virginia Lakes:** Dick Spencer reported having an extensive conversation with two of the property owners who have homes in the Virginia Lakes area, the Landes and the Campbells. Both are interested in buying more property. Mrs. Landes told him that she owns the dam. Her home is located on our side of the bridge. They also own plot #12. The Landes want to purchase a triangular piece of land closest to the dam and some other parcels. Mrs. Landes told R. Spencer that she wants to be taxed by the Town for all of the land that they own in Virginia Lakes.

J. Huebner said that one of our goals is to keep land on the tax rolls with current owners. We want to get money for all of the available properties. He will talk with Town Counsel, J. Pollard, again and review the situation. J. Huebner took out a plot plan and the entire Board and D.Spencer examined it to locate the properties mentioned above.

**6. Highway:** Tom Johnson described plowing on the recently completed Summit Hill Bridge. He mentioned problems with the width of the pavement and the snow to be cleared. There were also some challenges with a bracket on the plow truck. K. Lew said that we were due for a new blade on that truck and might look at the budget at year's end. Kirchner Road plowing went smoothly. T. Johnson gave a check for \$3345 we made in the online used equipment auction to Treasurer Glenn Grogan. The contract T. Johnson signed for the Upper Frost Road culvert grant last week has to be re-notarized by the Town Clerk. He told the Board that the large MEMA project sign at Eden Glen on Frost Road has been taken down. J. Huebner reminded the Board that although we were turned down for a MASSworks grant for Lovers Lane, he will reapply in the spring. We still have not received the paperwork for the additional \$250,000 promised by DOT Division One Director Francisca Heming for the Middlefield Road bridge. We do have her pledge in an email though. Tom Johnson showed the Board a photo of our new bright red small truck. He has standardized on red for the Town fleet of vehicles. The Board supported that decision. He will get the Town lettering painted on this truck as soon as possible.

- 7. Treasurer:** Glenn Grogan told the Board that he had completed the settlement of payrolls and payments with Maxymillian on the Eden Glen construction project. One line item was overrun in the amount of \$154,000 and caused a delay in payment. After some frustration with the project accounting, he was able to create a spreadsheet that finally answered all of their questions. We expect to close out the project speedily now.
- 8. Police:** Chief Breen told the Board that he thought that he had had a minor accident pulling out of the school driveway on Friday though he is not certain. The next day he was contacted by a woman who told him he hit her car. She asked for white paint to fix her bumper. The Select Board told him to get her to sign off on something clarifying the details of the incident. There were no marks on the bus. J.Huebner told him that the inspection of trash dumped behind Woody's will be scheduled again. As Charlie Kaniecki has retired, our new inspector Jayne Smith will do the inspection with him. Her initial doubts about perhaps trespassing on the property have been cleared up. The inspection will take place in January. T. Drugmand mentioned the dumping of large pieces of trash wood on RJ's property. Chief Breen will research the property lines.
- 9. Broadband:** K. Lew told the Board that he had spoken with Westfield Gas and Electric, our design contractors for the network, about the details and cost of running conduit instead of poles from Middlefield Road down Lower Valley Road. He and S. Nelson will continue the discussion on their call with Bill Emmons of EOHED on Wednesday.
- 10. Planning for Washington's Future Project:** So far only Dick Spencer, Jim Huebner and Kent Lew have signed up for the project. Last week invitation letters were sent out to 7 residents/couples.
- 11. Procurement Officer:** J. Huebner said that no progress has been made yet on identifying a procurement officer for the Town. However he expects

activity on that front to ramp up after the holidays. He has identified a potential grant that Berkshire Regional Planning may help with.

12. **Student Transportation:** J. Huebner approved payment of an invoice from the Town of Becket in the amount of \$260.72 for one student traveling to Smith Vocational for the month of December. He also approved payment of \$8,364 for first half tuition for 1 student traveling to McCann Tech.

13. **Berkshire County Selectmen’s Association (BCSA) letter:** J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from the BCSA urging our Select Board’s support for “An Act to Study the Feasibility of High Speed Rail Access between Springfield and Boston”. Washington is a member of the BCSA.

14. **Community Compact Grants from ClearGov:** K. Lew told the Board that he had looked into this potential source of funding and learned that any grant award would be used to pay for ClearGov’s consulting services on Transparency Best Practice areas. J. Huebner questioned our need for this program as BRPC would help us to get a DLTA grant for such work if we needed it.

15. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. T. Drugmand seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson