

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

January 8, 2018

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 18, 2017. T. Drugmand seconded the motion. After a brief discussion on an edit previously made by R. Grillon to item 13 and his concern for that edit, J. Huebner apologized for any misunderstanding. J. Huebner then reviewed the minute acceptance process of only the Selectmen receive a draft of the meeting minutes to review for edits. Edits are sent to J. Nelson, who will make the requested edits and re-send a second draft. Any difference in opinion on requested edits will be discussed and voted on during the next meeting. Without further discussion the motion to accept the minutes as written passed by unanimous vote.
3. **Tax Collector:** J. Huebner informed G. Campbell that the Board received a letter of commendation on her work as the Tax Collector from resident M. Polizzi.
4. **Building Maintenance Coordinator:** M. Thomas discussed security and fire system upgrades to the Town Hall recommending that the Board hold off on consulting an Architect as suggested by the Fire Chief's inspection report. M. Thomas will contact the Building Inspector and E. Bond regarding a blueprint of the Town Hall then contact Ameritech to schedule a walk through for a base estimate for review. It was decided that the he will also get an estimate from New England Security for comparison.

It was also decided that the Town Hall roof leak repair will need to wait until spring. J. Huebner will work with Commonwealth Places to help design a solution that could include installing solar panels. M. Thomas has the truss design from E. Bond. The Board asked J. Hostetter to cancel the service call appointment with Wooliver, monitor the bucket in the hallway, put tape over the hall light switch and install a lamp for safety.

M. Thomas reported that he will do a temporary fix until he can complete all the Transfer Station repairs.

There was a brief discussion on becoming a green community.

5. Conflict of Interest: J. Hostetter distributed the Conflict of Interest Summary all individuals elected or appointed to a position with the Town requesting that everyone return an acknowledgement of receipt.

6. Highway: The Board discussed potential candidates for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Middlefield Road qualifies as it is used by three towns and Frost Road is a bus route for two towns. J. Huebner and T. Johnson will work together on the application.

T. Johnson has not yet review the Berkshire Road Inventory file.

T. Johnson received a quote from Foresight Engineering for the Upper Forst Culvert. He will follow up on remaining two quotes.

T. Johnson received the plates for the Toyota Tundra light duty truck. It was picked up today. There was a problem with the invoice so he will pick a corrected invoice when he picks up the heavy duty Dodge.

JT. Johnson will speak to the Hinsdale Highway Superintendent regarding the \$4,500.00 charged for snow plowing Blotz and Pittsfield Roads and when he wants the fiscal year 2019 invoice. J. Hostetter will draft the invoice. There was a discussion on the exchange that happens in plowing. Washington does more then what we bill them for but they let us use their mini excavator, roller and paver without cost.

J. Huebner excused himself to have the Town Clerk notarize documents regarding the additional \$250,000.00 for the Middlefield Bridge

7. Town Common: K. Lew reported that he opened up the route already used by snowmobiles this year by unlatching the chain on the pilliar located on the far side of the common. He wrapped it around and hooked it to the connecting pilliar. He also reported that he saw evidence of groomer activity.

8. Police: Chief Breen purchased the paint for the vehicle bumper he damaged. The letter clarifying the details of the incident has not been signed yet. He also

reported that resident E. Shapira is donating \$2,000.00 to assist residents with the cost of heating fuel with the stipulation that the money goes directly to the utility company on behalf of the recipients and that no money is granted to commercial businesses. The Board agreed that it is very generous then discussed the best way to distribute the funds. J. Hostetter offered to call the Neighbor to Neighbor program for the Town of Washington.

- 9. Board of Health:** J. Huebner confirmed that Chief Breen obtained a map of Woody's and that he is able to attend an inspection of both Bucksteep Manor and Woody's. J. Huebner will send out an email coordinating the inspection. Chief Breen request that he be contact by cell phone.
- 10. Council on Aging:** S. Deloye submitted for signature the 2018 grant paperwork.
- 11. Treasurer:** G. Grogan reported the Town received \$150,000.00 in Chapter 90 funds and the final payment paperwork was submitted. He spoke to Beth Dubrawski of MEMA, who will try pushing through the paperwork by the February 16th loan due date. He received the Horizon Consulting contract but P. Clark has not provided the design change drawings. J. Huebner will email P. Clark for the records. The as built plan could be obtained by Maxymillian if necessary.
- 12. Broadband:** K. Lew reported that Town received the first bill from WG&E. He will review the invoice and begin budgeting. One thing stood out during the regular check-in with WG&E. The Priority of the extra money set aside is a true-up of the "make ready" part of the cost. He needs to get an update on the estimates WG&E using to see if there will be an additional shortfall. There is a phone meeting scheduled with WG&E during the day Wednesday and Wired West's Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening.
- 13. Virginia Lakes:** J. Huebner had consulted with Town Counsel regarding selling lots. The first step is a warrant article on either a STM or the ATM to seek approval for first accepting what has been given to the town and another article to seek approval to sell the lots. We cannot offer preferential treatment. We can set a price or hold an auction. The town is required to publish two advertisement

two weeks apart. The discussion regarding disposition methods and giving preference to future tax payments offers was tabled until a time when R. Spencer is present.

14. Town Park: J. Huebner confirmed with Town Counsel that charging for clean-up or to cover expenses does assume liability. D. Sinopoli received an email from MIIA verifying that the Town liability coverage includes the ice skating rink. The email included appropriate language for posted signs. Events are also covered. Vendors should provide a certificate of liability. The next Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at 6:00. The Commission plans to review the current application process and forms used before reviewing 2018 permit applications.

15. Pugzee's Farm: The discussion on the residency status and tax status of Pugzee's Farm was tabled until it can be further discussed with the Assessors. With a large number of second residents it would be good to know the State law and the criteria used to determine the residency status. If that process allows for discretionary judgment then any potential bias concerns could then be addressed.

J. Huebner reported that Town Counsel has been informed of another nuisance complaint received from a resident. The Board is waiting for the resident to contact Mr. Shapira or other neighbors before something if anything can be done.

16. Grants: J. Huebner entered into the record the signing of two DLTA Grant applications. One is a renewal of a grant for a Procurement Officer, which the Town got last year but this BRPC project has not begun. The second applies for Assistance on the Municipal Planning Process. He also sent out an application for Community Compact as it did not require a signature.

17. Meetings: Small Town Summit: R. Grillon is planning on attending the Small Town Summit. He would like to see the use of technology in terms of organizing towns to address small town issues perhaps communicating with the 93 towns currently paying to me a member of STAR.

J. Huebner urged everyone to review Senator Hinds Agenda for Western Massachusetts addressing issues ranging from Universal Broadband, train service from the south and west, fighting for fair funding pilot and complete reimbursement for school transportation. J. Huebner will send the email with the link to the remaining Selectmen and Finance Committee. There was a brief discussion on working towards an appropriate reimbursement level bringing the allocation closer to the need calculation. K. Lew would like to reach out regarding the broadband issue.

J. Huebner attended the Pittsfield City Council swearing in ceremony last Tuesday.

18. Planning Board: The Planning Board will be working with BRPC to take a regional approach to draft marijuana regulations.

19. Town Hall: J. Hostetter and J. Nelson have decided on system to assist residents navigate the Town Hall. Installing a bracket for a hanging room number sign and a directory of offices for the entrance way.

G. Grogan re-set the WI-Fi.

D. Parnell offered to buy the old brother printer and computer previously offered on the surplus equipment for sale to residents list. After discussion J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to contact J. Les for a fair price.

20. Town of Becket: The Board received a letter from the Town of Becket with new beach permit requirement. Effective May 2018 current permit stickers will be invalid. Residents must have the new beach permit sticker displaying 2018. J. Huebner will contact the new Town Manager for additional information.

21. Remote Meeting Participation: The Board reviewed 940 CMR 2910 which allows for remote participation of meeting attendance. There are several methods available for participation that were discussed, which will allow a Board member not to be absent. T. Drugmand asked the Board consider adopting this process that will allow participation in the discussion, decision making and voting. She anticipates out of town project in the near future and with a cell phone she could hear all of the meeting, participating, instead of reading the summarized minutes of the meeting. The Board discussed the pros and cons of adopting the

regulation with J. Huebner and R. Grillon not in favor off adoption. It was decided that for now important items can be tabled until all the Selectmen are present and the topic was tabled until a future date. Tricia Drugmand asked the other Board members to reconsider and Jim Huebner agreed to put it on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

22. Planning for Washington’s Future Project: J. Huebner reported that residents S. Kelly and L. & D. Oakes declined a seat on the futures committee. He will reach out to D. Gagnon. To date K. Lew, J. Huebner, D. & K. Sinopoli, R. Grillon and J. Hostetter have accepted the Board invitation. T. Drugmand suggested asking Ms. Hayward.

23. Adjournment: J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm. R. Grillon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

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Respectfully submitted, Jodi Hostetter.