

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

February 5, 2018

1. Tricia Drugmand called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were T. Drugmand and R. Grillon. J. Huebner had designated T. Drugmand to Chair the meeting in his absence.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, T. Drugmand made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/29/18. R. Grillon seconded and the minutes were unanimously accepted as written.
3. **Highway:** Tom Johnson told the Board that he submitted 2 grant applications this week. One is for Lovers Lane and the other for Middlefield Road. He expects that we will have to wait several months for a decision. He plans to attend the DOT Summit Hill Bridge inspection meeting tomorrow. He has an issue with the width of the deck on the new bridge. He plans to do some measurements before the meeting and bring that data to DOT's attention if necessary. He thinks that instead of maintaining the original width or increasing that a bit, the width has actually shrunk, creating a clearance challenge for our largest trucks. T. Drugmand suggested that in the future the Select Board should be more involved with project oversight. She asked T. Johnson about the upper Frost Road culvert. He responded that he currently has 1 estimate. He sent out a request for quotation to another 5 contractors last week as we need a total of three to bid. The design deadline is approaching.
4. **Traffic Safety on Washington Mt. Road (WMR):** T. Drugmand reported that the Select Board had received a letter from Dalton Town Manager Ken Walto. The letter informed us that Dalton is considering asking for a Heavy Truck Exclusion for WMR, citing its steepness, narrow roadbed and sharp curves. In the wake of a serious accident in November on WMR involving a construction vehicle, residents petitioned the town to consider a ban. The Dalton Select Board and the Traffic Commission are in support of the

petition. Mr. Walto is aware that Dalton must have the support of the other towns which would be affected by such a ban for the plan to work. He requests that the Washington Select Board consider this request and that we get back to Dalton with our thoughts and position on the matter. T. Johnson and D. Spencer agreed that we need more details on the plan before we can take a position. We need weight specs. We need to know if they apply to all trucks. Many other questions arose such as: Would 18 wheelers be excluded? What alternate routes would excluded vehicles be able to take given the restrictions on sections of Rt. 8?

K. Lew said that he believes Dalton wants to get DOT involved in this discussion. There was general agreement that speed is the critical issue on WMR. T. Drugmand tabled further discussion of the issues until next week when we hope to have more information and more towns involved. It was noted that the town of Becket was not copied on the letter.

5. **Broadband:** K. Lew told the Board that he and S. Nelson will travel to Westfield for a meeting on Wednesday with our design contractor, Westfield Gas & Electric. K. Lew said that he had asked them to print out our data so that we can look at a real data map. The map will be drawn according to the cleaned data, enabling decision making on where the fiber is going. He expects to have it sketched for general review in a week or so. The next step will be to send out our pole applications to Verizon and Eversource and wait for their responses. He plans to bring in a copy of the data map next week.
6. **Virginia Lakes:** D. Spencer told the Board that he plans to talk with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard again to get the ground work on valuation and disposition of the properties settled before the ATM. Assessor Consultant Karen Avalle is advising on valuation. He wants to see values set low. A number of the remaining parcels are land locked. We are still not clear on who owns the roads through the area. He has been contacted by 8 or 9 people interested in selling. He told the Select Board that what he needs to

do is find a way to get interested parties to make an offer. T. Drugmand agreed with this assessment. D. Spencer cited letters of interest from people who would like to buy all of the land that they can. Sean Connors mentioned that The Nature Conservancy may get involved. T. Drugmand said that she will keep this issue on the agenda for further discussion next week.

7. **Police:** T. Drugmand asked Chief Breen about the status of the inspections planned for Woody's and Bucksteep. He responded that he has no news yet on the inspections. He did not believe that they had been scheduled. T. Drugmand gave paperwork from the BMC Emergency Room to Chief Breen to fill out regarding his injuries from being attacked by two Town dogs last week. Chief Breen said that he had been unable to contact Mr. Shapira of Pugzee's Farm about his interest in contributing to the Neighbor to Neighbor program. T. Drugmand asked him to email Mr. Shapira about his intentions. She asked him to contact J. Hostetter for the email address.
8. **CBRSB:** K. Lew told the Board that he is planning to go to the February 13th meeting of the 7 Town Advisory Board at Nessacus. He is trying to get a discussion of voc- ed on the agenda. He hopes to see Doug McNally of Windsor there to explore the subject, in which Mr. McNally is interested. He wants to discuss the option of the towns' voc-ed students going to Taconic instead of Smith. We will need to talk with Taconic to explore possibilities and programming.

J. Hostetter reported that she had attended a feasibility study meeting at Wahconah. She was impressed by the consultants' expertise and the quality of their recommendations for the school. Many of the ideas they put forward involved "green energy" initiatives which will save the Town money in the future. D. Spencer mentioned that he was contacted by DOER about the option of using wood to heat the school and to generate electricity from solar panels on the school roof.

9. **Administrative Assistants:** J. Hostetter told the Select Board that she had posted a notice about Neighbor to Neighbor at the Transfer Station. She will also put it on our web site at www.washington-ma.com. J. Huebner mentioned the annual Neighbor to Neighbor program in his February Selectmen's Letter in Tracks.
10. **Parks Commission:** J. Hostetter reported that the Parks Commission has approved an application for a dog Frisbee league to start in April at the Town Park.
11. **Treasurer:** G. Grogan asked the Board if it had any information on a \$50.00 donation it had made to the Becket Federated Church in December. The Board had no recollection of this, but Administrative Assistant J. Nelson recalled that the donation was to the Church's Christmas Dinner Fund and that it was to come from the Selectmen's budget.
12. **Brief Items:** Chair, J. Huebner will return to the Board on February 12. There is no meeting on Presidents' Day, February 19th. There is no new information on the transfer of the 5 acres of cemetery land or on a veterans' memorial.
13. **Adjournment:** T. Drugmand moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson