

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

February 26, 2018

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Attending for the Board were R. Grillon and J. Huebner. T. Drugmand had provided an audio recorder requesting a recording of the meeting in her absence.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from 2/12/18 as written. R. Grillon seconded and the minutes were unanimously accepted as written.
3. **Board of Health:** J. Huebner report on the upcoming March 6th inspections of three locations by the Board of Health and Health Agents Charlie Kaniecki and Jane Smith. Family Unity aka Bucksteep Manor is being inspected the general condition as it relates to public nuisance concerns. They requested postponement until the open date of May 1st. The request was denied as any business cannot open without first obtaining approval. They do not have an approved public water source, an approved septic system or a commercial kitchen. Woody's general condition is also being inspected. 509 Washington Mountain Road is being inspected per the requested by Chief Breen. Chief Breen reminded J. Huebner that all paperwork must be complete before the inspection. Letters have been sent out to all three locations.

J. Huebner and J. Paxton will be attending an Emergency Dispensing meeting in Dalton this Thursday March 1 at 3:00 PM and an Age Friendly Berkshire meeting at 8:30 on March 15th.

4. **Broadband Update:** J. Huebner requested time to discuss Town Counsel concerns regarding provisions in the Pole Agreement siting section 3 that allows with a 60 day notification a change to the amount charged. Additionally Appendix one proposes charging more for rural poles than urban and more for the sole ownership poles as opposed to jointly own ones. Telecom is charged almost twice the cost of connecting cable at approximately \$15.00 per pole. J. Huebner asked for the total pole count and if telecom fees are subject to utility review rules. K. Lew said the town

has 750 poles but the license fees won't come out of the town pockets directly. They will be covered by the network defraying cost. These fees are not subject to utility review leaving no real leverage. After further discussion and see no alternative J. Huebner recommended accepting the agreement. After conferred with D. Grillon he signed the document. S. Nelson said even though DPU does not regulate telecom there is a process underway to exert influence. He reported that the Lieutenant Governor called a summit type meeting inviting Verizon, Eversource, Charter, Comcast, National Grid and other elected representatives to express a the need for a collaborative effort to get telecom to all done. J. Huebner expressed the Boards willingness to, if the time came, to keep applying pressure through the legislative branch.

K. Lew updated the Board on the access to extra true up money reporting that the cost connecting to poles on public way is an allowable cost for the sake of overage. He said that poles not on a public way are not allowable for overage sake but can be included in the construction cost. He reviewed all the maps. His calculation of every square inch came within 18 feet of the WG&E calculation. The application will be written for 750 poles of which 106 seem to be out of the public way poles. Construction cost depends on how many of them need to be make ready. The town will not know the initial make ready cost until after the application is returned. K. Lew reviewed the map with the Board. There was additional discussion on out of public way poles, offering options to residents, running connections underground and using existing conduit.

5. **Highway:** J. Huebner reported that Mrs. Cadman is happy with the town's proposal and spring timeline. He thanked T. Johnson for following up with her.

J. Huebner provided T. Johnson documentation for funding increase for Middlefield Road. T. Johnson will email Foresight for the necessary documents.

J. Huebner motioned to sign the response letter to Mr. Walto of Dalton regarding weights limits on Washington Mountain Road. D. Grillon seconded. There was a discussion on the weight limit on the bridge of route

8 in Becket near the Becket General Store. Action would need to be taken by Becket for Route 8 to become an alternate route. J. Huebner entered into the record T. Drugmand's email approval of this letter.

J. Huebner and T. Johnson discussed the new round of culvert grants available from the Department of Environmental Resources. T. Johnson said he is going to use the original construction design proposal from Horizon Consulting for \$650,000.00. J. Huebner reminded him of the March 12th submission date. T. Johnson reported that Carrie Banks knows that the town is applying for the original construction cost.

The Board decided to table approval of the letter of complaint to the MassDOT Chief Engineer of the Summit Hill Road bridge replacement until next week when all members are present. T. Johnson informed the Board that he is able to get across the bridge but cannot use the wing plow and the stationary plow does not clear very well. There was discussion purchasing a hydraulic plow system to allow for blade adjustment.

T. Johnson and K. Lew discussed the salt budget. T. Johnson would like to fill the bay completely. There was nothing new to report on the Road Inventory.

T. Johnson reported that an interested party will be submitting a quote for the upper Frost Road Culvert. That quote along with couple of emails from uninterested parties satisfies the search for best price requirement.

R. Spencer asked about removing the culverts on the L'Hote property. T. Johnson stated that one of the culverts is draining water regularly that trenching would help. He said the land owners were prevented from trenching to the river by the Westfield Wild and Scenic.

T. Johnson informed the Board that he received an emergency call from the Sheriff's dispatch stating that the fire department called in that they were having trouble with the fire truck slipping and sliding along Washington Mountain Road while responding to a live line fire. He had an onsite discussion with the Fire Department revealing that they were fine with the road. T. Johnson reported that the Highway Crew had salted the road earlier that Sunday. He also said that other towns were having similar false calls. After discussion J. Huebner asked T. Johnson to contact the Sheriff's

office to let them know that the call was false. There was discussion without decision on getting the name of future callers so the Town can follow up for feed-back purpose.

6. **Correspondence:** J. Huebner motioned to approve the MA DOR letter regarding the reduction in PILOT funds as written. R. Grillon seconded the motion. T. Drugmand sent an email approving this letter the motion passed by unanimous vote. J. Huebner requested that J. Hostetter print a color copy of the map to accompany the letter and the Cherry Sheet to Governor's budget proposal comparison prepared by K. Lew.

K. Lew reported that Patricia LeBoeuf of The Berkshire Eagle has contact him a second time with questions about the Town reduction in state aid. She seems to be gathering information to do a story. He has sent her additional documentation and explanations. J. Huebner plans to send her a copy of the letter. This is topic should be discussed at the Legislative Breakfast held 8:00 AM at the Pittsfield City Hall on March 16th. Both J. Huebner and K. Lew plan on attending.

7. **Police:** V. Breen informed the Board that he setup a meeting with the town of Becket interim manager to discuss the shared vocational bus service. Also he has not seen the woman to yet to get the sign off on the damage vehicle.
8. **Seven Town Meeting:** J. Huebner report on take-ways from the Seven Town Meeting. The overall budget is hardly moving at all with a net increase of \$25,000.00. All are doing a good job with education services. There will be an addition to the ATM warrant with an article making changes to regional agreement. K. Lew brought up at the meeting reclassifying the vocational education issue to a school board issue. K. Lew added that tuition is not an issue. The issue is that the State using the "subject to appropriation" of the full funding statute consistently under fund. D. Spencer suggested treating vocational education as school choice. All agreed that it is a topic to bring up at the upcoming Legislative Breakfast meeting.

9. **Annual Town Meeting (ATM):** The Board discussed additions to the annual town meeting warrant. The Planning Department is holding a public hearing on imposing a marijuana moratorium article. D. Spencer is going to draft the Virginia Lakes article(s) to accept the donation of property and to give the Town's executive branch authority to sell Virginia Lake parcels.

The ATM will be held on Wednesday, March 9th beginning at 7:00 PM. It should be signed by the Board on April 30th. J. Huebner would like to focus the monthly Selectboard letter and Tracks for April to highlight the ATM. D. Drugmand suggested having an informational meeting prior to the ATM to allow residents to ask questions and express concerns. K. Lew reported that the Finance Committee will meet on the April 24th and hold a budget informational meeting from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on April 28th. The Board decided to hold a Green Communities informational meeting on May 5th.

10. **Virginia Lake:** D. Spencer reported that he reviewed every property on map. In Unit 1 there are 5 units in tax title that need to be taken. There is another 6 units that are way behind on taxes that should be put in tax title. One of the 2013 donations is covered by one of the letters obtained by the town. The other property was offered by D. Gorman acting as power of attorney sent the offer of two parcels in unit 1. She attached two death certificates to the offer that stated it was never probated. D. Spencer recommended placing the two parcels in tax title. Taxes have not been paid since 2012. K. Lew intends on having a tax taking need budget discussion with G. Campbell and G. Grogan.

11. **Parks Commission:** D. Drugmand reported that the BWCP will have a discussion with the Parks Commission at the Monday, March 6h meeting. J. Paxton will talk to them regarding the BOH procedure. They would like to talk to the Board about the Insurance policy cost. D. Sinopoli clarified with the town's insurance that events are not covered unless it is a town sponsored event. There was discussion on perhaps co-sponsoring with the Town of Becket. The Parks Commission needs to find out more about the insurance needs.

12. **Brief Items:** There will be a marijuana information meeting held on March 27th from 9:00AM to 12:00 PM at the Newton Wellesley Hospital. A

webinar is also available at the same date and time. D. Grillon attended the Berkshire Regional Transportation Authority meeting. The Assessors are working on the parcel mapping. D. Parnell will complete the Schedule A when he returns from vacation. J. Hostetter did not confirm receipt of Mr. Shapira's donation to the Neighbor to Neighbor program. J. Huebner will not be in town from April 18th to the 28th.

13. Adjournment: J. Huebner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Hostetter