

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen at Washington Town Hall

March 5, 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. As the first order of business J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of February 26th as written. T. Drugmand seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Highway:** Tom Johnson confirmed for the Select Board that he and the road crew have been out working on Town roads both early and late into the night recently. J. Huebner reported that the Select Board had received a letter from the UMASS Amherst Transportation Center recognizing that T. Johnson had completed course work of a minimum of twenty-two six hour training seminars presented by MassDOT's Baystate Roads program. He has thus earned certification as a Master Roads Scholar. The program is designed to improve access to current highway and road technology to rural and local governments.

Regarding the Upper Frost Road culvert, T. Johnson informed the Board that he has filed a grant application for the culvert on Frost Road. He expects to have news on the culvert design shortly. There is no news on the Road Inventory project or the Middlefield Road bridge design.

J. Huebner made a motion that the Select Board sign a letter he had written to Patricia Leavenworth, Chief Engineer at MassDOT Boston reminding her that the Town had originally requested that the span of the new Summit Hill Road bridge be widened to two lanes for both safety and ease of plowing. He pointed out that this request had been ignored. In fact DOT has narrowed the new bridge by eighteen inches. As a result our Highway Crew cannot now use our large plow trucks on the bridge. The Town is faced with a new operational burden and unnecessary costs. J. Huebner

also mentions in the letter that DOT omitted any documentation of this narrowed roadbed from the post-construction meeting notes. T. Drugmand seconded the motion to sign this letter and the motion was approved unanimously. All three Board members signed.

J. Heubner reported receiving a letter from MassDOT signed by Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito informing the Town that Chapter 90 funding for local transportation aid for fiscal year 2019 will total \$200 million state-wide, pending final legislative approval. The Town of Washington's Chapter 90 apportionment will total \$170, 142 pending final passage of the bond authorization.

K. Lew asked the Board if we know the status of Dave Fish's CDL license. J. Huebner will check with T. Johnson to confirm status.

- 4. Parks Commission:** J. Huebner acknowledged receiving a copy of the Becket policy on Issuing One Day Liquor Licenses. T. Drugmand said that she had reviewed the Policy. R. Grillon had not done so yet. At the Board's request and with Becket's approval, J. Hostetter had edited the policy to make it clearly Washington's. J. Huebner made a motion to adopt the One Day Liquor Policy as presented. T. Drugmand seconded and the policy was adopted as presented.

The Parks Commission joined the Select Board meeting as did Purr McEwen, Chair of the Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees. There was brief discussion of plans for Washington to host this summer's Becket/Washington Fair, the Hilltown Bruhaha on July 14th. The Athenaeum had submitted a completed special event application to the Commission for the Becket Washington Community Partnership (BWCP). J. Huebner made a motion to approve the application as submitted. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous. Dominic Sinopoli will check on the adequacy of our insurance coverage for the joint event. T. Drugmand asked that the BWCP provide information on their process for

handling funds raised at the event. J. Huebner asked that the BWCP speak with Chief Breen to clarify security coverage for the Bruhaha as alcoholic beverages will be served.

5. **Board of Health:** The Board of Health and Chief Breen will inspect the premises at Bucksteep, Woody's, and 509 Washington Mountain Road tomorrow.

6. **Shared Services:** The Town of Becket has requested the following payments for their services this year: Fire Department \$15,000; Ambulance \$5,000; Becket Beach \$2,500. K. Lew mentioned that he was looking into a report that County Ambulance (our current provider) had not responded to some calls. K. Lew indicated that our fire protection cost had increased over last year. He will inquire about the reason for the cost increase in light of the fact that our use of the service has not increased. J. Huebner said that we will be getting stickers for use of Becket Beach.

7. **BRPC:** J. Huebner reported that the plan for increased rail service to the Berkshires is taking shape. More service to the region is expected. The I-90 interchange and paving of the Skyline Trail were also discussed at the MPO meeting.

Wahconah has been designated a dispensing site in the case of an anthrax or similar attack or epidemic emergency. On Thursday, March 22 BRPC will hold a public meeting to update citizens on the Berkshire Regional Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan from 2:00 to 4:00pm in their 2 Fenn St. offices in Pittsfield.

8. **Broadband:** There was brief discussion of surety bonds needed for the broadband project. These need to accompany our pole agreements. K. Lew showed him where to sign the documents. Dick Grillon witnessed the signing and added his signature. K. Lew said that he will be on site

tomorrow when the actual mapping gets underway. The Select Board approved the payment of \$1000 to WiredWest for annual membership.

9. **ATM preparation:** There was preliminary discussion about information to be gathered for the ATM. Items mentioned were: Selectmen's expenses; Green Communities proposal; Adoption of Chapter 59 Section 8A property Assessment; Sale of Virginia Lakes lots; Recreational marijuana by-law; CBRSD Regional agreement; Veterans' aid figure and various budget requests. There will be an informational session on the Budget on April 28 from 10-12am and on the Warrant questions on May 5 from 10 to 12am. The ATM will take place on May 9 at 7:00 PM.

K. Lew told the Board he had obtained from Eversource our electrical costs summary over the 12 months of 2017 for Town Hall and the Highway Garage. There was brief discussion of installing solar panels on the municipal buildings to reduce operating costs.

10. **Police:** Chief Breen reported that he had not had any success trying to contact the woman who claimed her car had been damaged by the school bus earlier this winter. J. Huebner asked to have this item removed from active consideration. Chief Breen reported that he has investigated the speed sign in Hinsdale and does not think it would work for Washington Mountain Road (WMR). J. Huebner asked that the Administrative Assistants get a copy of Dalton Selectman Walto's letter regarding WMR for Chief Breen.

11. **Becket Washington Community Library (The Athenaeum):** K. Lew reported receiving the annual capital request from the library. It has increased by 2.5%. We paid \$2,000 last year. He will inquire about our percentage of the after school program to be sure it is proportional to the Town's use of it.

12. **Pugzee' Farm:** There was brief discussion of business activity at the property. It was generally agreed that commercial activity by an LLC is difficult to investigate and to confirm.

13. **Adjournment:** J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM. T. Drugmand seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Nelson