

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

March 12, 2018

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner and R. Grillon.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from 3/5/18. R. Grillon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner announced that our Police Chief, Victor Breen, had passed away over the weekend. A number of people from the law enforcement community expressed their sorrow about the news. J. Huebner said that he had been contacted by the police chief from Otis. The Chief from Middlefield stopped by the meeting to tell the Board how much he enjoyed working with Chief Breen over the years and that he would be greatly missed by his colleagues. Selectman Dick Grillon thanked him for driving over to express his condolences in person. Officer Nicole Miller from the Becket Police Department spoke of their sorrow at his passing and expressed her personal gratitude for his friendship and mentoring. She offered her help in any way it might be needed by the Town. Additional expressions of loss and personal testimonials came from numerous Town employees, committee members and residents. S. Connors told the Board that he had been in touch with Mrs. Breen and that she was being supported by the family. Dave Drugmand, Parks Commission Chair, said that the flags at both the Town Park and at Town Hall would be lowered to half-staff. J. Huebner thanked him for his assistance with that formal recognition of Chief Breen's passing. He said that he will defer conversation for a week on how to go forward. J. Huebner mentioned that Ben Phillips has agreed to take over the School Bus driving indefinitely.
4. **Highway:**

J. Huebner asked Superintendent Tom Johnson for an update on the Highway Department's activity. T. Johnson told him that Foresight Engineering has still not replied to our inquiry about the design phase of the Middlefield Road Bridge. In response to their inquiry of last week T. Johnson told the Select Board that Dave Fish's CDL license has still not been reinstated. This delay is due to a hearing which has been postponed. Regarding the Upper Frost Road Culvert project, T. Johnson said that he has received several quotes. These are within the grant budget. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the bid from Tighe & Bond. R. Grillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

T. Johnson said that he spoke to several other companies which decided not to bid on the project. He has been talking to Carrie Banks of DER about this culvert project and sent her the quotes for review. She suggested that we write a project description focused on how much volume of water will flow through the culvert. This could possibly qualify us for a FEMA grant. J. Huebner told T. Johnson about an upcoming meeting on culverts and stream crossings . T.

Johnson may attend as he is interested in getting more of our culverts replaced. He is hoping to find a more economical way to do this work. Additionally, he told the Board that the Highway Crew will be out on the roads starting at 4:00am tomorrow to deal with the forecasted heavy snow storm.

T. Johnson told the Board that the wing fell off the plow during the last storm. It was up at the time. He has contacted the dealer, Monroe, about this and they have promised to get up here to address the equipment failure.

**5. Parks Commission:**

J. Huebner said that he had received confirmation from Dom Sinopoli that insurance coverage for the scheduled July 14 Washington/Becket summer fair, The Hilltown "Bruhaha", is adequate.

**6. Board of Health:**

Our Health Agent Charlie Kaniecki and the Board of Health inspected three properties in Washington last week. They did a drive-by of Woody's. The Health Agent saw no reason to go inside the building. Additionally they inspected 2 private homes: 509 Washington Mountain Road and 828 Upper Valley Road. An eviction from the Upper Valley Road property will likely go forward. The Washington Mountain Road owner was ordered to get a dumpster and remove trash from the premises. An inspection of the Bucksteep premises was also planned but the Board of Health found the property unplowed and could not proceed. Our Health Agent wrote a letter to the Bucksteep owner, Family Unity International, reminding them of all the work including septic and well remediation that must be done before they can resume occupation of the premises. J. Huebner made a motion that the Select Board sign this letter. Absent Select Board member, Tricia Drugmand had emailed her approval of the letter and her permission to add her signature to it. Thus the motion to sign the letter was unanimous. The Health Agent's letter was duly signed.

**7. Treasurer:**

Glenn Grogan asked the Board about paying for the one-ton plow truck. He is only authorized to pay one half of the cost from stabilization funds. He talked to the Finance Committee about this last week and had not heard if the question had been resolved. He said that he will need signatures next week on the one ton plow truck. There is a \$35,000 charge on this account. This is the Tundra truck.

**8. Virginia Lakes:**

J. Huebner reported that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is interested in becoming a party to our sale of the Virginia Lakes lots. Project leader Dick Spencer is concerned about how much information we should share with TNC. J. Huebner said that it is a matter of public record and that the Town wants to keep as much property on the Town rolls as possible. He noted that there does not appear to be much support for TNC in Town. The Select Board signed letters

prepared by Dick Spencer to 6 parties who have expressed interest in the Virginia Lakes properties updating them on the status of our efforts.

**9. Administrative Assistants:**

J. Hostetter told the Select Board that the Conflict of Interest certificates are still coming in to her office from Town employees. The deadline is not until April. She said that she is still in need of a copy of the Veterans' Agent contract. She will be meeting with Town Maintenance Manager Matt Thomas later this week to give him a set of Town Hall keys. She will also get a list of the automatic lock combinations for him. M. Thomas told the Board that he has had to back off working on the Transfer Station project until the weather clears.

**10. Broadband:**

J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from Deputy Secretary Carolyn Kirk of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) confirming that Washington is eligible for Extra Mile Contingency funds for a portion of the actual and eligible costs for make-ready that exceed budget estimates provided by MBI.

**11. BRPC Town Planning Grant:**

J. Huebner signed the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Standard Contract Form. This is part of the process by which Washington will be able to use a \$10,000 strategic, long range planning grant secured for the Town by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). BRPC will provide direction and guidance to assist the Town in writing a plan for the Town's future. The Town Clerk notarized the Grant Agreement made between Washington and the state Executive Office for Administration and Finance (EOAF). J. Huebner also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the BRPC and the Town of Washington for helping Washington to become a Green Community.

**12. Meetings:**

J. Huebner announced that tomorrow there will be a public hearing on the recreational marijuana by-law in Town Hall at 7:00pm; The Annual Berkshire County Selectmen's Dinner will be held on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> at Mazzeo's. J. Huebner will attend. Informational Sessions on the Budget will be held at Town Hall on 4/28 from 10 to 12 am; Warrant Questions will be answered on 5/5 from 10 to 12 am; a Legislative Breakfast will be held in Pittsfield City Hall at 8:00 am on 3/16; There will be a public hearing on regional transportation on 3/22 at BRPC 2 Fenn St. in Pittsfield from 2 to 4 pm.

**13. Adjournment:**

J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. R. Grillon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

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Respectfully submitted, Jan Nelson