

Washington Town Meeting

September 20, 2010

Present

Shawn Lennon
Rose Borgnis
Jim Heubner

Residents

Roger Peltier, Jr.
David Fish
Victor Breen
Keith Sharpe
Ken Walls
Lyle Larsen
Michael Munger
Terry Walker

1. Jim Heubner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He made a motion to accept the minutes. Shawn seconded the motion, all were in favor. Jim made a second motion to amend the minutes. Shawn seconded. The motion was passed.
2. Roger Peltier, Jr. turned in a permit from the conservation commission to address the beavers. He also discussed a grant they're applying for energy efficiency for the building. They're looking for heat demand survey to satisfy the Berkshire Regional Planning Service. Roger also discussed the turnout for the "Town Hoot" and the upcoming Pumpkin Walk. They would like to come up with a plan for parking and the hay ride this year. He will be talking to Travis Miller, who may be able to donate temporary generated lights for the event.
3. Victor Breen and Keith Sharpe turned in payroll.
4. Keith Sharpe relayed that someone has come again to go into the Gaylord (the cardboard box that fits on the pallet) and taken things out. Keith believes Allen Ketchem, of Elm Street in Pittsfield, has permission to go through the metal bin to scavenge. He feels this practice should be rescinded. Rose made a motion to send Mr. Ketchem a letter to stop this practice. Jim Heubner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Keith also mentioned there is a Dan Thicket who comes in with heavy cardboard boxes from Adams. Jim suggested that Keith invite Mr. Thicket be invited to a Selectman's meeting to discuss this practice before the board. It is believed these boxes are from his business in Adams, not from his residence in Washington. Keith also turned in a quote from East Coast Refinishing and Surfacing Stripping, Inc. for refurbishing the recycling container for \$3,032.50. Keith relayed that the excess trash from "The Hoot" was an alarming amount and that the electricity was out and the fuses were missing from his facility after this event. David Fish said that he called the electric company and they were supposed to come out and replace a guide wire because he had

partial power. David suggested Keith call the electric company to restore power to the recycling area.

5. Ken Walls suggested that Keith buy the replacement fuses before the electric company comes out to check the service because they will only restore power to the box, and not replace the fuses.

6. Jim Heubner asked David Fishe about a RibCo bill for a flange frame. David confirmed it was for a manhole cover. Jim also spoke to David about taking a ride together to see the condition of the town roads next week, tentatively for the 28th.

7. Jim Heubner has been in touch with Mr. Grillon and Bill Cawley to be recognized as former Selectman. Keith Sharpe wanted to be sure that Lillian Fox should be added to the list.

8. David said they have 725 tons of blacktop down on Lover's Lane so far. After that is completed, they will begin going through the trucks and getting the plows on in preparation for the winter. David talked to Steve Garrity from LB Corporation, who will be doing the 3 inch overlay on Frost Road. Michael Munger asked what Becket does to do such a smooth job with so little asphalt. David said the proof of their process will be after they plow it and see how it holds up to the winter. Rose asked David about the line painting that was done last year. David said it had already been paid, and it was broken down by how many feet on each road/color.

9. Ken Walls wondered why the lines weren't painted on Route 8 in Washington, while they were in Hinsdale. David suggested that it might be because the stretch of Route 8 in Washington might need some other work done before

10. The Administrative Assistant position was posted again. Jim Heubner made a motion to offer the job to Jody Hostetter. Shawn seconded the motion. Rose mentioned that the ad was necessary due to Personnel policies. Rose has additional concerns that the grant requires that the new hire be accountable for the hours and that Jody would be doing some of the work from home. Jim made a motion to hire Jody Hostetter. There were two Ayes and one Nay vote. Jim Heubner mentioned that the drug test should be taken along with the Cory check. Victor Breen felt the drug test might not be necessary since she will not be working with children. Rose countered that since Head Start is housed here in the same building, she would need to have a drug test by Personnel Policy rules. Jim Heubner mentioned a concern that she might not be able to be on-site. Jody, corrected that she will be able to work from the building as long as she would be able to bring her daughter.

11. Jim Heubner has received one application for the Town Accountant position which will close on September 27th. He received a call from Terry Walker who wanted to know if there would be any objection to her applying for the position.

12. Jim Heubner received a request from McGraw Hill Construction for bid results and names of 3 low bidders for the Frost Road resurfacing. He will forward those documents to them as they are a matter of public records.

13. Regarding the computer for the Selectman's office, Jim Heubner suggested we might use the laptop from the Council on Aging. Rose reminded him that it would not have sufficient storage space for scanning in all of the minutes they intended to store on it, and that Victor Breen had already requested that laptop for a cruiser.

14. Victor Breen has a young man, Shane Boudreau, who wants to go to the police academy. He is from Hinsdale, and there is no Police Chief in Hinsdale, so the young man came to Victor for help. Victor would like to sponsor him, and it does not cost the town anything or cost the town anything. Victor asked him to provide a letter to release the Town of Washington of all liability. Jim Heubner and Shawn were both supportive. Victor will forward any information to the board.

15. Jim has a quote for the Fire and Liability insurance, which lists 3 constables and one chief. Shawn asked if the constables had to provide their own insurance. Victor stated they did not, because in Washington, the constables are unpaid positions.

16. Jim Heubner attended a Berkshire Regional Planning meeting. There is a meeting on the 30th, which the highway department will be attending.

17. Rose mentioned that at the Hilltown Hoot, there were food vendors that were not permitted by the Board of Health, and therefore not inspected. We will want Valerie to address that in the future.

18. Jim Heubner sent Rose and Shawn a proposed letter that will go in "Tracks" regarding recent events and upcoming meeting topics. He would prefer it come from the three Selectmen, but Rose said she'd like it to be from just Jim. Shawn said he would be on the letter also.

19. There is a letter from the Berkshire County Selectman's Association in which there was a Selectman who attended their dinner and there is a bill outstanding for this event. Rose suggested passing this onto Sandy.

20. Jim received a letter form the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the Census. It does not apply to us.

21. We received a MA State Alcoholic Beverage Licensing with an updated form to use for licensing.
22. We received a request from Headstart that they need a new food inspection. This will be forwarded to Valerie. The board will then issue their license.
23. We received a letter from Carol Kennedy commending the staff for cleaning the town hall building.
24. From the building inspector we received \$35 for a building permit.
25. Terry Walker brought in her resume for the Accountant position and returned the keys to the front door from last week.
26. Rose relayed that we received verification from Sandy that we have \$85 to spend for Solar Powered Lights. The one that mounts on the flagpole is \$149.95, so the difference is coming from Building and Grounds and will be handled at next week's meeting.
27. Lyle Larsen asked what is the difference between the Accountant and the Treasurer positions. Sandy, as the Accountant will keep the books, and the Treasurer will be responsible for the disbursement of the funds. This was designed for accountability. They will use the same software. It is unclear what the office set up will be. Jim Heubner feels that Sandy and Belinda should also be active participants in selecting the Accountant since they will be working closely with the new person.
28. Jim Heubner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. Shawn seconded the motion. All were in favor.