

## **Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – October 31, 2011**

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Selectmen M. Case and J. Huebner in attendance.
2. Selectmen and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of 10/24 as amended. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
4. J. Huebner read into the record a check for \$175.00 received from the St. Andrews Chapel committee and a check for \$4.70 received from L. Peltier for public records request fees.
5. J. Huebner read notices to the Board of upcoming workshops on flood insurance and municipal/zoning planning. M. Case expressed some interest in attending the planning workshop.
6. J. Huebner asked the Administrative Assistant about status of our public records request to the City of Pittsfield on recent logging and the stumpage fees due to the Town of Washington. She reported that a second request letter had been sent. She also reported that she had consulted with the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (BRPC) on whether they had a list of approved county roll-off haulers. The BRPC does not have such a list but they are following up on this request with the state and will report back to the town. The BRPC did request an estimate of the town's average annual tonnage hauled. Based on hard copy of a haulage printout, J. Huebner estimated about 150 tons hauled down to Covanta annually. Rose Borgnis mentioned that M. Lampro at the transfer station and J. Hostetter have spreadsheets on the tonnage hauled. She mentioned that S. Brazee has a copy of the Covanta contract.
7. J. Huebner asked the Board for changes in or revisions to the November Selectmen's letter for publication in the Tracks. The Administrative Assistant noted that she had inserted a short paragraph calling for residents with good digital photos of the Pumpkin Walk to send the best ones in for possible publication in the Annual Report. The Board agreed to this addition. J. Huebner moved that the Selectmen's letter be accepted as amended. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Residents Jackie and Arlo Guthrie asked to address the Board on the subject of their interest in Bucksteep Manor. Arlo said that he had first asked Rudy Sacco to sell the property to him 40 years ago. Finally they are close to an agreement. The Guthries' overall plan is to upgrade and expand the property into a hotel and health resort. They realize that there is much work to be done at many levels from septic and water supply to sprinkler systems in the main buildings. Their current concern however is to get an understanding of whether the town can remove some of the permitting and licensing restrictions that have been placed on the bar and restaurant operations over the years. As

the Selectmen are the town's licensing entity, Arlo asked if the Board could "back track to the former usage of the barn and restaurant". Rudy Sacco had signed an agreement with the town to limit use of the barn to a banquet hall for total capacity of 99 people. Arlo asked if that could be changed. He was concerned about whether he could use the barn to serve alcohol and whether he might be able to get a hotelier's license that would cover the whole property. He mentioned that they are still working out the details and he is just trying to get a feel for how supportive the town will be. J.Huebner replied that the town is certainly supportive but there are limits on what it can do. Arlo said that he will have a representative at next Monday's meeting with more information on these issues. He also voiced interest in the Mapleview property and might want to incorporate it into the hotel development. J. Huebner told Arlo that the Town has made no decision yet on the sale of the property and is just in the discovery stage with the current Mapleview bidders.

9. Selectman Shaun Lennon joined the meeting at 7:45.
10. S. Brazee, Town Treasurer, joined the meeting and J. Huebner asked her to supply some information for the US Census of Governments which he has been working to complete. She confirmed that we are authorized to issue short-term debt, nor can we issue hunting licenses. She confirmed that the town does have a retirement plan through Berkshire County Retirement. We also have a veterans' service officer, and an arts council. J. Huebner asked for last year's revenue, expenditures and debt figures. S. Brazee will try to get as much of this information together as she can, but mentioned that D. Parnell had lost all receipts' data from last year as a result of a computer failure. The software continues to be unreliable. He was unable to restore it from back-up. D. Spencer asked if we had received the supplemental budget payment from the state of \$5776.00 today. S. Brazee will check on this. If received, it would have come via direct deposit and she would get a notice from the bank. She reported that all the paperwork is ready for FEMA. They are waiting for some bills to come in before they can finalize the application. It will go out this week before the deadline. We may receive 75% of the \$27,000 we have applied for according to D. Fish. Sandy will complete the census form and mail it in.
11. J. Huebner asked D. Fish about storm response. D. Fish said that it went fairly well, given that he had a new man on the job.
12. J. Huebner asked S. Lennon about status of the beaver permit. S. Lennon replied that he is waiting for Mr. Champaign, the trapper, to call back.
13. J. Huebner announced that the BRPC will be holding a course relevant to many of the town's current issues on December 14 from 7:00pm to 9:00 on special permits.
14. D. Fish asked J. Huebner about status of CSX and Upper Valley flooding. J. Huebner replied that he has tried many times to reach the contacts at CSX unsuccessfully. They clearly will not respond to our attempts to get them to address the problem. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to call the CSX emergency number to try once more to make contact. J. Huebner is ready to call town counsel and ask him to begin legal proceedings. K. Wall

said that the water is up over the road again. It was observed that the railroads are so powerful that it is nearly impossible to get them to pay attention to the needs of small towns through which they pass. D. Spencer suggested that even the railroads might be forced to respond if they get enough negative publicity directed at them. He thought a story about Washington's predicament in the Eagle with pictures of the flooding might help us to make our case against CSX. There was general agreement that this might be a good idea.

15. J. Huebner introduced the subject of the Mass. Film Survey. He has nearly completed it. He will add Chief Breen and D. Fish as contacts from the public works department. We will be a film-friendly jurisdiction. We will need to develop a special permit for filming if needed. We may need to appoint a film liaison.
16. J. Huebner stated that Ed Bond is working on the estimates for windows and doors for the EECBG project and the ADA compliance ramp. J. Huebner is working with BRCP on getting a new scope of work written for DOER to cover funding for the windows and doors in town hall under the EECBG program.
17. J. Huebner asked about the status of the new laptop which was approved for the Administrative Assistant. J. Nelson replied that J. Les will come to town hall this Friday to review the laptop spec at the request of J. Hostetter. He will also at that time work on fixing the problems with the town computer system, including malfunctions of printer, scanner and internet access.
18. M. Case made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 7:53. J. Huebner seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Submitted by J. Nelson