

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 12, 2020

Meeting held via video conferencing.

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.
Public: Dan Sherr, Dimitri Rimsky, Chris Charles, Michelle Gorra, Michael Gorra, Jim Kelly, Michele Balfour.
Press: Linda Zukauskas.

Call to Order: First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: To approve an Authorizing Resolution with the Department of Emergency Services. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton. Discussion: To approve the revised Personnel Handbook. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 29, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported the following:

- **OPM:** Thank you to Finance Director Linda Gomez on her securing \$27,000 from OPM for reimbursement for COVID expenses.
- **Civic Plus Award:** Following a submission by Jim Brinton, Dimitri Rimsky has been named the recipient of a Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award Certificate of National Recognition, honoring him as a top 100 National Award Winner for Outstanding Civic Volunteerism. Congratulations, Dimitri!!
- **COVID-19 Update:** Jim assured the public that although Washington is now “red” on the State’s COVID Tracking map, there are still only 2 active resident cases. The remainder of the number reported were cases in educational institutions and have been controlled. Jim reminded all residents to stay vigilant in following safety protocols. Should the Town need to tighten restrictions, it is ready with plans, PPE etc. Dean Sarjeant and Jay Hubelbank reiterated the importance of residents following protocol

and asked that they not let their guard down. The use of Town Hall by outside groups will be evaluated tomorrow at a meeting of the Town's recovery team.

- **Transfer Station STEAP Grant** in the amount of \$128,000 has been secured. There is an additional approved \$200,000 in the Town's Nonrecurring Fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Gold Course Road:** Michael Gorra and Michelle Balfour attended this evening's meeting representing the Washington Golf Club. Michael explained the history of the road which since 1948 has been maintained by the Club when it was given as a right-of-way from the Club to Wykeham Road. Construction of homes and subsequent traffic, etc. has taken its toll on the road and has resulted in increased cost to the Club. Following discussion with Highway Director, Kevin Smith, the Town has offered to plow and maintain it through this winter. Jim Brinton suggested an engineering company study the road in the Spring. Costs of repair and future maintenance may be shared with the Town. Michael Gorra will provide the Selectmen with the information he has obtained regarding the easements, etc. Dimitri Rimsky suggested it also be reviewed by the Planning Commission as the subdivisions were constructed after the initial right-of-way was given.
- **Grants Update:** The \$600,000 "Sidewalk" grant and the \$685,000 bridge grants are still pending.
- **Personnel Handbook:** Jay Hubelbank reported that following the updating of Job Descriptions for Town employees, the Personnel Handbook has also been updated – including setting of goals, employee evaluations, sick time, etc. It has been reviewed and OK'd by the Town Attorney. **Motion:** To adopt the updated Personnel Policy. By Jay Sarjeant, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Scheduling of a Special Town Meeting. Motion:** To schedule a Special Town Meeting, via video conferencing, for Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:30p.m. to set the dates for the Annual Town Budget Hearing and Annual Town Budget Meeting in May 2021. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: This Special Town Meeting is taking the place of the Annual Town Meeting normally held in October which was postponed due to COVID 19. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Authorizing Resolution: Motion:** To approve the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that James L. Brinton, as First Selectman of The Town of Washington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Washington and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Joan Lodsinn** asked for clarification of COVID-19 numbers within the Town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 6:00p.m. re: discussion of a real estate matter. They re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:55p.m. with no action taken.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant