

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
February 4, 2021**

**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:** Dimitri Rimsky, Wayne Hileman, Leslie Anderson, Carole Matteo, Joan Lodsins, Christine Fernandez-O'Toole, Chris Charles, Ted Bent, Michelle Gorra, Susan Smith, Dan Sherr, Ray Reich.  
**Press:** Linda Zukauskas – VOICES.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.  
By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

- **Town Hall:** There have been 3 positive COVID cases in the Town Hall in 3 weeks. Those affected are quarantining. Other staff members are working in shifts in their respective offices.
- **Vaccine Appointments:** 3 Volunteers are assisting Senior Center Director, Pam Collins, to reach out to residents 75 and over assisting them in making appointments for vaccines. 65 and over will be in the next phase.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Wayne Hileman – Northwest ConnecCT – Municipal fiber grid:** Wayne, Chairman of Northwest ConnecCT, attended this evenings meeting to request the Board of Selectmen consider a one-time expenditure (approximately \$20,000 +/-) to fund a phase 1 engineering study that would provide a survey of existing pole and underground infrastructure, and other critical data regarding the installation of fiber optics in the Town. The information gathered would be crucial in creating a bill of materials that would be used for entering the next phase of going out to bid. With more residents working from home, remote learning for students, tele-health conferences being used, etc. many in Town may want this service over what is currently available. The Selectmen agreed to discuss further.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Acceptance of the Election of Officers of the Fire Department: Motion:** The Board of Selectmen, acting as Fire Commission for the Town of Washington, accepts the recent election of Craig Wilber as Chief and other officers of the Washington Volunteer Fire Department. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

- **Michelle Gorra**, Director of Economic and Community Development, spoke in favor of funding the Phase 1 engineering study noting that the service may be needed more in the future as what we have presently could become inadequate.
- **Joan Lodsine** also spoke in favor of better service for seniors as they are spending more time at home and more time on the internet.
- **Ted Bent**, as someone who works from home, and a member of the Board of Finance, supported the funding of Phase 1 as well.
- **Dimitri Rimsky** addressed the “new population” in Town who are working from home, children doing remote learning, etc. He feels this is an opportunity for Washington to be a cutting edge community.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:18p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Assistant