

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 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: Joan Lodsins, Tom Osborne, Howard Barnett, Susan Smith, Christine Armstrong, Bob Papsin, Brian Hagenbuch, Kristen Feldman, Todd Peterson, Michelle Gorra.

Press: Linda Zukauskas.

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 February 18, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended to include Joan Lodsins as being present and under "Old Business" to include Jim Brinton and Dean Sarjeant as attending the tour of the Shepaug Agriscience facility. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Motion:** To appoint Christine Armstrong and Brian Hagenbuch to the Sustainability Committee. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Jay explained that both have attended meetings and expressed their interest in serving. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report: Jim reported the following:

- **COVID Update:** Jim continues to have weekly meetings with the Department of Health. The next phase for vaccinations has opened to include those 55 and over educators. Separate allocations are being made for faculty and staff in the schools and it is hoped that within 2-3 weeks they will have all received their vaccinations.
- **Road and Bridge Schedule:** Jim and Highway Director, Kevin Smith, have discussed the aggressive road and bridge schedule. The Town is still waiting to be notified as to when monies will be released from the State for scheduled bridge work. Rabbit Hill Road bridge will definitely be completed this year.
- **American Rescue Package:** Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) has released some information about this package that indicates Washington is eligible for \$340,000. No other information is available at present – including what it is to be used for, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Acceptance of Personnel Policy: Motion:** To accept the Personnel Policy as revised. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved. The revised policy will now be distributed to all employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Solar Power:** Jay Hubelbank reported that the Connecticut Green Bank is managing a program that would assist municipalities in exploring the benefits of installing solar panels on municipal buildings. The Town Hall and Depot Fire House have been identified as two buildings that could benefit from solar power. CT Green Bank handles the costs associated with the project including the bidding process for equipment, installation, etc. They would then come back to the Town with a monthly rate the Town would pay that would be considerably less than what is currently paid for electricity with Eversource. If in agreement, the Town would enter into a 20-year commitment to pay that rate. There was some discussion about including the Primary School and Shepaug in the future.
- **Energy Portfolio Program:** Jay Hubelbank also reported that this is a program through UCONN that would provide municipalities with information regarding energy usage (including electric, oil and propane) for each of the Town-owned buildings with comparisons to other similar buildings. The goal would be to save on energy costs.

Visitors:

- **Christine Armstrong:** Christine attended this evening's meeting to discuss the increased traffic (and speed) on Gunn Hill – particularly at the intersection with New Preston Hill Road which has caused several near miss accidents. Chrissy was asking the Board for guidance, suggesting changing the angles of the intersection. Jim Brinton offered to meet with her at the site along with Kevin Smith, Highway Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To enter into Executive Session at 5:55p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:21p.m. with no action being taken.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:21p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant