

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
September 14, 2021**

HYBRID MEETING

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, Dan Sherr, Andrew Carron, Chris Combs.
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 September 2, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Troy Kaiser as Fire Marshall: Motion:** To appoint Troy Kaiser as Fire Marshall for the Town of Washington for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Troy was appointed as Deputy Fire Marshall in August 2019 and Acting Fire Marshall in July 2021. There were 3 candidates interviewed. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Personnel Policy:** In an attempt to clarify the Personnel Policy in regards to paid Holidays, the Selectmen discussed paying part time employees for approved Town Holidays. The question was raised should they get paid for a Holiday if it falls on a day they would not normally be working. The Selectmen agreed to review the various scenarios and come up with a policy that was fair and equitable to all.
- **Discussion of POCD:** The importance of each Board and Commission to review the specific responsibilities assigned to them was again stressed. The Selectmen will review theirs at the next meeting, point by point. Speeding in Town, particularly in the Depot was addressed. Jim Brinton has written to the Commissioner of the DOT requesting a study for calming measures be done. All agree that the flashing speed limit signs do have the effect of slowing traffic. The Town currently has 2 that get moved to various locations. Newer models not only flash the speed, but also take pictures and can generate citations. The drawback is that a police officer needs to also be in the locale. Dean Sarjeant asked if a lay person could be "deputized" as a traffic officer. Jim will look into but feels that may be a large liability.
- **Discussion of mask wearing:** Currently the Governor's Executive Orders allow for individual municipalities to mandate mask wearing in public places. These Orders, however, expire the end of September. The Selectmen will wait to take action until it is known what the Governor

will do. Businesses do have the ability to make their own decision as to whether they require patrons to wear masks or not.

- **Discussion of ARPA Funds:** The Selectmen have sent several possible items to the Town Attorney for his opinion as to whether or not they meet the criteria for distribution of these funds. At the present time, he has given his opinion that at four of the items meet all criteria. He will continue to review the others. **Motion:** To approve, and refer to the Board of Finance, the distribution of ARPA funds for: 1) the repair of culverts in conjunction with the Housatonic Valley Association; 2) development of an emergency shelter in conjunction with the Salem Church; 3) High Watch Recovery facility for individuals and essential workers whose mental health has been affected; upgrading of Emergency Services headquarters. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Following this approval, the items will need to be approved by the Board of Finance followed by approval at a Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Plastic Bag Ordinance:** Jay Hubelbank reported that he attended a Washington Environmental Council meeting. The concern that businesses were distributing plastic bags was found to be a one or two-time mistake. There is presently no need to remind businesses of the Ordinance prohibiting their use.
- **Solar Panel Project:** Jay Hubelbank reported that the Connecticut Green Bank will be providing a report in October regarding the possible municipal sites. Currently the sites include the Town Hall, the Depot Firehouse and the Washington Primary School. When it comes to the Town Hall, the Trustees of Bryan Memorial Town Hall will be consulted as to their thinking. Installation of the panels could result in substantial savings for the Town.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Condolences on the death of Stephen Wadelton:** On behalf of the Town the Board of Selectmen expressed their sympathy to the family and friends of Stephen Wadelton who served the Town for many years in several capacities as a volunteer. His countless hours in service to the Town is acknowledged and appreciated.
- **Setting the Agenda for the October 4, 2021 Town Meeting:** **Motion:** To approve the Agenda for the October 4, 2021 annual Town Meeting as follows:
The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:
 - 1) To set the dates for the annual Town Budget Hearing and annual Town Budget Meeting in May 2022.
 - 2) To approve American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund requests.Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 14th day of September 2021. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Dan Sherr** inquired if the Town Meeting would be held in person, virtually or hybrid. Dean Sarjeant offered to speak with Ed Advance regarding the possibility of holding it virtually or as a hybrid. Jim Brinton explained that after speaking with the Town Attorney, Town Meetings need to be held in person due to verification of the voters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:14p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:10p.m. having taken no action.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:10p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant