

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 31, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Bill Genovese, Carole Matteo, Bob Papsin, Sally Woodroffe, Dimitri Rimsky, Jake Horn, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsine, Linda Gomez, Larry Gendron, Andrew Carron, Michelle Gorra, Ted Bent, Chris Charles, Sophie Guillemette.

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 March 17, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of a representative to the Housatonic Valley Health District. Motion:** To nominate Dean Sarjeant as the Town of Washington's representative to the Housatonic Valley Health District. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.
- **Retirement of John Gueniat:** Jim Brinton announced the retirement of John Gueniat who served the Town as a constable for five years and custodian of the Town Hall for thirty-four. In the past several years, John worked diligently adding technology to his responsibilities. His years of service are greatly appreciated and, on behalf of the Town, the Board of Selectmen extended gratitude and wishes for a happy retirement.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported:

- **Creation of a Fiber Optic Advisory Board and an ARPA Advisory Board:** Appointments to both will be made at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Both will act as clearing houses to make recommendations to the Selectmen.
- **Wood disposal:** Highway Director, Kevin Smith, is looking into alternative methods for disposing of wood that accumulates as a result of tree trimming, storm cleanups, etc. He is looking into environmental initiatives such as mulching and milling that would save the Town time and money.
- **Bridge Program Update:** A pre-construction meeting was held re: Whittlesey Road Bridge. The Contractor informed Jim that he would not be able to procure the steel until September, greatly delaying the project. As the hope was to have the bridge completed by October, Jim contacted the second bidder who informed him his company would be facing the same problem. Therefore, the project may need to be postponed. Calhoun Street Bridge work is nearly completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Resiliency Building Workshop:** Jay Hubelbank reported he and 15-16 other representatives from Town government, non-profit organizations, Fire Department, EMS, highway department, etc. attended a workshop on resiliency building. Jay will have a report ready for distribution next week. Planning for the future is the main goal.
- **Delay of Demolition Ordinance:** Following discussions with the Board of Selectmen, the Historic District Commission has revised the proposed Ordinance. It's approval and adoption will be placed on the May Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Extend a Request for Proposal for renovations to 92 Bee Brook Road: Motion:** The Town of Washington is seeking architectural and engineering service proposals for designing and engineering the adoptive re-use of the existing office building at 92 Bee Brook Road into an Emergency Medical/Ambulance station. A site visit will be held at 92 Bee Brook Road, Washington Depot, CT on April 26, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. for interested parties. All submittals by mail or in person must be received no later than 4:00p.m. May 5, 2022 at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, 2 Bryan Plaza, P.O. Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794. For more information and the complete Request for Proposal, please contact selectmen@washingtonct.org. The Town of Washington reserves the right to reject or accept any or all, or part of any bid if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Washington is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: The site visit is recommended by not mandatory. Thank you to Peter Talbot for the preliminary work he has done. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Discussion of Zoom meeting protocol:** Following discussion, the Selectmen agreed that if an attendee of the meeting via Zoom, has the ability of turning on the camera, they should do so when addressing the Board. As a side note, Jim Brinton explained to the attendees that the Board was not giving any further time or thought to the visitor at the last meeting who was proposing a "spent nuclear fluid" facility in the Town.
- **Review and approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Budget:** Jim Brinton explained the difficulties faced by the Board of Selectmen in preparing the budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Increased material costs, insurance costs, added personnel, etc. have all contributed. Some costs are out of the control of the Town such as it's portion of the school budget and the Resident Trooper contract. Approximately \$900,000 was cut from the first draft of the proposed budget. **Motion:** To approve the proposed budget prepared by the Board of Selectmen and to forward it to the Board of Finance. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: The Selectmen briefly discussed the Capital Budget which allows the Town to do necessary major projects and upgrades without having to borrow. The Selectmen thanked each of the Town's Departments and Commissions for their input into the budget and a special thanks to Linda Gomez, Finance Director. If approved by the Board of Finance, the budget will be presented to the Town at a Budget Hearing on May 5, 2022 at which time questions can be raised and ideas presented by the public. It will then go to a Town Meeting on May 19, 2022 for approval by the townspeople. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

- **Leslie Anderson** requested that Commission and Board members who are Zooming into meetings be asked to turn on their cameras as well. Leslie also inquired about the Job Postings

in the paper not having the “Town of Washington is an Equal Opportunity Employer” included in the ad. This will be corrected in the next run of the ad.

- **Dimitri Rimsky** asked if the Whittlesey Road Bridge project is significantly delayed, could the potholes be filled with stone.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:00p.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