

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

April 27, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

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

Public: Andrew Carron, Liz Peterson, Joan Lodsins, Leslie Anderson, Dan Sherr, Ralph Averill, Daisy Glazebrook.

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 April 13, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Christopher Panullo as Tree Warden:** **Motion:** To approve Christopher Panullo as Tree Warden for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Chris is a member of the Highway Department and a certified arborist. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of a representative to the Catchment Area Council:** The Western Connecticut Coalition that deals with substance abuse prevention as well as mental health needs, has an opening on their regional "Catchment Area Council" and invited the Town of Washington to appoint a representative. Following discussion, the Selectmen felt the Town is already well represented by several organizations that deal with such issues.

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

- **Eversource outage:** Several New Preston residents, businesses and the Washington Montessori School were notified with only a couple of days' notice that power would be turned off for several hours today to do an emergency repair on a transformer. This disruption caused concern particularly for the school. At the last moment, it was rescheduled until May 26th. Jim has been in touch with several of Eversource representatives and liaisons and requested better communication and advance notice going forward.
- **MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: to discuss a personnel issue that has just occurred. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Wake Boats on Lake Waramaug:** Jim will be having a meeting next week with representatives from the Lake Waramaug Association, Lake Waramaug Authority and Lake Waramaug Task Force as well as the First Selectmen of Warren and Kent to discuss this further. According to the DEEP, certain vessels cannot be prohibited from being on the Lake but their use can be prohibited. Dean Sergeant spoke to the issue of safety and stressed the importance of establishing an Ordinance to deal with the problems associated with wake boats. Jim further explained that the process needs to be followed: 1) meet with the Lake organizations and Town

leadership; 2) hold a forum to provide information to the public; and 3) hold a Town Meeting to vote on the Ordinance.

Selectmen's Report: Dean Sarjeant reported the following:

- An ad for **"Lake Keepers"** has been posted to recruit members for a civilian patrol to assist with protecting, educating and servicing the Lake Waramaug boating community. Members of the patrol will be driving the Lake Waramaug Authority's boat, observing and documenting all boating activity in and around the lake. More information can be found on the Town's website under "Employment" on the Home Page.
- **Support of Board and Commission members:** Dean suggested the Board of Selectmen issue a statement in support of Commission members. Recently there has been false and malicious statements made in regard to individual Commissioners and/or Commission decisions. The public should be reminded that all members of the Town's Boards and Commissions are volunteers giving generously of their time and dedicated to their work and, although, there may be differences of opinion and agreement, the Commissioners deserve the respect of the public.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of ARPA Fund applications: Motion:** To approve the ARPA Fund applications for the Institute for American Indian Studies in the amount of \$20,000; the Gunn Memorial Library in the amount of \$95,000; and the First Ecclesiastical Society of New Preston (Stone Church) in the amount of \$30,000. All additional information has been submitted and vetted by the ARPA Committee. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Region #12 funding proposal:** Curtis Read, First Selectman of Bridgewater, has presented a proposal to base the cost sharing of the Region #12 budget on "a moving average of three years instead of just one year." The current system for cost sharing is presently based on the current year's student population from each of the three towns in the region, which can cause sudden increases in the Town's budgets impacting property taxes significantly. Jay Hubelbank addressed the matter of the original agreement establishing the Regional School District, stipulated how the funding would be broken down. To change that agreement, it would need to be approved at Town Meetings in each of the towns. This Board agreed to discuss and consider further in the future.

- **Setting the Agenda for the Annual Town Budget Meeting: Motion:** To set the Agenda for the Annual Town Budget Meeting as follows:

The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:

1. To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses and Transfers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
2. To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
3. To approve ARPA Fund Committee recommendations.
4. To nominate and elect representatives to the Shepaug Valley Region #12 Board of Education.

Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 27th day of April 2023

James L. Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant
Board of Selectmen

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

- **Renewal of the Beach House lease: Motion:** To renew the Lease for the Beach House along with the current Caretaker Duties for the period March 1, 2023 through February 28, 2024. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: The Selectmen and Parks and Recreation Commission are all very pleased with the current tenant, Ralph Averill. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:03p.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 6:28p.m. with no action being taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:28p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant