

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

August 3, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

Present: First Selectmen Jim Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant. Public: Ross Bartfield, Brad Bernstein, Alice Tompkins, Andrew Carron, Nancy Williams, Kevin Hayden, Ray Reich, Daniel Paige, Mark. Press: Ann Jamieson – 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 July 20, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments & Resignations: None.

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

- **Highway Department** is finishing up paving and drainage work for the season. The Selectmen commended the Department for doing much of the prep work "in-house" – saving the Town thousands of dollars.
- **Titan Energy: Motion:** To renew the Town's contract with Titan Energy for one year beginning in December. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Titan Energy is the supplier of energy the Town has contracted with through CCM. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Depot Firehouse Solar Project** is completed.
- **Lake Waramaug Wake Boat Update:** Jim met with the First Selectmen of Kent and Warren at the Task Force office. The Task Force is looking into hiring Terra Vigalist to conduct a thorough study that will gather data on the effects the wake boats have on the lake. Aerial and submersible drones and other equipment will be used to conduct a comprehensive study. Phase One will be to send a survey to all community residents of Washington, Warren and Kent in the Fall. Phase Two will begin gathering the physical data in the Spring. The three Towns will provide information on the firm on their websites, email blasts, etc. and urged all to look at the You-tube videos that clearly explain the study and the processes involved. The Selectmen briefly discussed establishing a "compromise ordinance" to limit some uses of the wake boats until the study is completed. Jim felt that changes to the current uses of the boats could flaw the study and therefore no compromise ordinance should be established. The Selectmen agreed.

Selectmen's Report:

- **Jay Hubelbank** reported that the Building Committee of the new Ambulance Headquarters met and reviewed the architects report. The next meeting will be with the architect and costs will be reviewed. Once the committee is comfortable with the needs and the costs, it will be report to the Board of Finance.

- **Dean Sarjeant** Reported that the Housatonic Valley Health Department is working on new by-laws and will have more to report in the near future. He also reported that the costs of the litigation the Health District is involved in will be shared by the member Towns.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Wykeham Road:** Resident Ross Bartfield asked if there was any more information on installing the three-way stop signs on Wykeham Road to slow traffic. Jimi Brinton explained he has spoken with OSTA (Office of the State Traffic Administration) and the recommendation is to install the stop signs at the intersection of Wykeham Road and Sabbaday Lane and to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph for the entire road. Once the speed limit is changed, he will ask for more patrolling by the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Visitors:

- **Brad Bernstein** requested that if there is going to be any discussion of the lake at a Selectmen's meeting, it be placed on the agenda and that the specifications of the proposed study be made available. Jim explained that the video referred to above is very comprehensive.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:52p.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