

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

January 18, 2024

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: Michelle Gorra, Susan Smith, Torrey Whittman, Leslie Anderson, Danny (?).

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 January 4, 2024 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: Jim Brinton reported the following:

- **Bristol Resource Recovery Facility:** Jim met with representatives of the facility which is in good financial shape and whose costs to the Town are lower than other facilities. Executive Director, Mark Bobman is retiring and there is currently a search for his replacement.
- **Northwest Connecticut Council of Governments:** The Council is made up of 21-member towns which represent 113,000 residents. Jim, who serves on the Legislative Committee, reported that most leaders share the same concerns and feel that most matters are being handled well by the State.

Selectmen's Report:

- **Jay Hubelbank** and the Sustainable Committee continue to work on making composting of brush, leaves, etc. available at the Transfer Station as well as plastic bag recycling.
- **Dean Sarjeant** reported that the Housatonic Valley Health Department has clarified that Washington has been removed from budgetary issues that involved a law suit. Next year's operating budget is currently being worked on.
- **Lake Waramaug Keepers** program has 2 new members and training will begin in March.
- **Community Center** options are still being explored and more discussion will take place in the next budgetary cycle.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The purchase of **Automated Traffic Calming** devices, which have been approved by the State, is being examined as far as cost, placement, collection of fines, appeal process, etc. An Ordinance needs to be approved at a Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen is designated as the Town's traffic authority. The Selectmen are in favor of moving ahead with this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Invitation of Bid – Christian Street Bridge:** Tabled until next meeting.

Invitation to Bid - Transfer Station Hauling/Disposal: **Motion:** Sealed bids for Transfer Station hauling and related services are invited and will be received by the Town of Washington until 4:00 p.m. on February 29th, 2024 at the Office of the First Selectman, Bryan Memorial Town Hall PO Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes and clearly marked "Transfer Station Proposal". Detailed information can be found at Washingtonct.org or by calling the Selectmen's office at 860-868-2259. The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, with availability and quality of service a determining factor and to award the bid in the best interest of the Town of Washington. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Hauling and disposal services for recycled materials and municipal solid waste materials as well as demolition and scrap metal are included in the bid that will cover the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Jay Hubelbank inquired if it would be better cost wise if the bid was for more than one year. Jim explained, that if there were new vendors, a one-year contract would be better and could be extended if the Town were pleased. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

- **Leslie Anderson**, referring to an article in last week's Spectrum, asked if there is a two-year waiting period before installing the new traffic calming devices referred to above. This is not Jim Brinton's understanding. She also inquired about the expansion of worker's compensation benefits available to Emergency Service Personnel who may be suffering from PTSD. Jim explained our personnel receive all the benefits allowed including the maximum tax relief benefits.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:56p.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