July 8, 2010

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.
Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.
Public: Valerie Friedman, John Meeker, Lillian Lyon, Gary Fitzherbert, Steve Wadelton, Denise Arturi, Linda McGarr, Chris Charles, Rocky Tomlinson, Diane Dupuis, Barbara Brinton.

Call to Order: First selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion:
To approve the minutes of the June 24, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved. Motion:
To approve the minutes of the June 24, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following correction of a typo under "Purchasing Ordinance/Requirements": "came contractor" should be "same contractor".
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:
Resignation of Richard Sonder as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission:
First Selectman Lyon received a letter from Mr. Sonder on June 28, 2010, notifying the Town of his resignation from this Commission due to other pressing time commitments. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Sonder for his time and accepted his resignation. This leaves a vacancy for an alternate. Mark will contact both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees asking for suggestions/recommendations. In order to maintain minority representation, when filling the vacancy for ZBA alternate, Mark has asked for recommendations for an unaffiliated or democrat.

First Selectman's Report:
First Selectman Lyon reported the following:
Hot Dog Cart at Town Beach:
Questions have been raised recently as to how Robin Delancy was able to have her Hot Dog Cart at the Town Beach. Mark explained that in December of 2009, Ms. Delancy attended a Board of Selectmen's meeting to request permission. The Selectmen felt she would not be in conflict with other businesses; she could serve the fishermen, beachgoers and general public. She was referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission who advised her that if she met all permitting requirements, including her peddlers permit, she could bring her cart there for a one-year trial period. Mark further explained she has been very cooperative with placement of the cart, she is not taking up a parking space. Jeff Cox, Beach Director, has also reported that most beachgoers have shared favorable comments about her being there. Mark stated her continuing her business at the Beach will be re-examined at the end of her first year and for the most part all input has been favorable.

STEAP Grants:
The Town is eligible to apply for a STEAP grant that could be used for bridgework within the Town. Federal funds would be available as well and two firms have approached First Selectman Lyon offering to do the necessary paperwork for the federal funding. The Town would be responsible for the STEAP paperwork. Federal funds would cover 80% of a qualifying project and the STEAP grant 20% (the Town would put out this 20% and then be reimbursed). The entire process takes approximately two years. Repairs would not qualify – only replacements. Nick Solley also mentioned that when considering future projects, the Town Hall infrastructure should be placed on the list.

OLD BUSINESS:
Recording of Selectmen's Meetings:
Following the last Board of Selectmen's meeting, Mark spoke with Sheila Anson, Town Clerk, regarding the requirements of retaining the recorded meetings. If the Board voluntarily records its meetings, the recordings must be kept on record for six months. Selectman Jim Brinton asked those present why the request was being made in the first place. He reiterated the fact that the present minutes already give more than is legally required. The Selectmen asked those present about the equipment used, if the quality is not up to everyone's expectations, what's next? Discussion continued with input from Valerie Friedman, John Meeker, and Chris Charles voicing their opinions in favor of recording; and Linda McGarr, and Gary Fitzherbert seeing no reason to do so. Motion:
To record the next Board of Selectmen's meeting with the equipment we presently have at our disposal, test the quality, the placement on the computer/CD, etc. with no permanent decision being made at this time.
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and both voted in favor. Jim Brinton voted against the recording.

New Business:
Cell Tower Consultant:
Mark Lyon reported Town Attorney David Miles has reviewed the proposed lease from Verizon and his comments have been sent to Verizon's attorney. A $10,000 ex-budget appropriation has been approved by the Board of Finance for hiring of a consultant. Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis, Susan Payne and Mark Lyon met on Wednesday to discuss the lease, next steps, gathering of information, issues to be discussed, etc. Blake Leavitt, who is very knowledgeable on the cell tower subject, has also been involved in discussions and met with Mark, Phil Markert and Dick Comey of Central Municipal Solutions. Walter Cooper has been hired to do an independent RF study on this Verizon cell tower application. At present, the consensus of those involved, is that the Blackville Road site is a good one but due diligence must be done and eventually decisions made that are in the best interest of the Town. Those present asked about other companies co-locating on the tower, and the feasibility of the Town approaching providers, etc.

Visitors:
Denise Arturi thanked the Board of Selectmen, all commissioners, volunteers, employees, etc. for the great job they are doing for the Town and their availability to discuss matters.

Adjournment:

Motion:
To adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary