

January 31

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Anthony J. Bedini.

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES

Public: Denise Arturi, Nick Solley, Alan Sandals.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 17, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 18, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

*** Cell Tower Information Meeting**

– Saturday, February 2, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Town Hall. The balloon float scheduled for last Saturday did not occur due to winds expected in the afternoon. Re-scheduled for 2/2/13 from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mark explained that if the winds are over 10 mph, it makes it difficult to take accurate pictures from the various view spots indicating the height of the balloon. If the float needs to be rescheduled again, the next date will be 2/10/13.

*** Cell Tower Lease**

– the final draft of the proposed lease has been reviewed by all attorneys and the Town's insurance company is now working with them regarding some minor word changes in the insurance section.

* Robin DeLancy has asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to put a small sign advertising her hot dog stand at the Town Beach at the intersection of Flirtation Avenue and Route 202 within the Town's right-of-way. The Selectmen agreed to discuss this further at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Denise Arturi – Judea Garden:**

Denise attended this evening's meeting to thank the Town of Washington for its support of the program by providing insurance and a distribution location (Town Hall) from July through the end of October. Judea Garden is now in its fifth year. Roughly 17 individuals and/or families take advantage of the program – the majority being seniors. Approximately 5,000 pounds of veggies was harvested last year, which equates to nearly a \$10,000 value. Any surplus is brought to the New Milford soup kitchen, or the Kent Food Bank, and occasionally Torrington Food Bank. Occasionally volunteers have taken some of the ingredients and cook various dishes for the soup kitchens. The New Milford Culinary School has made soup for distribution in Washington. Mark Lyon asked Denise about the arrangement with Steep Rock for using the space at the Macricostas Preserve. Denise explained this has been on a year-to-year basis but there has been discussion about Steep Rock making an agreement to use the land for a longer period of time.

*** Request by Assessor to increase the income level for Homeowner's Program:**

Mark Lyon explained that the State provides property tax relief for senior citizens who fall under a certain income level. The Town, Town Ordinance, has historically increased that threshold by matching the State's giving a slightly larger tax relief.

Motion:

To increase the income level for the Town tax relief benefit to \$40,900 for a couple and \$33,500 for a single person.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

*** Scheduling of Special Town Meeting:**

In order to proceed with the cell tower on Town property, the lease needs to be approved at a Town Meeting. Homeland Towers will then solicit carriers and make application to the Connecticut Siting Council. The Planning Commission will be discussing the lease at next week's meeting and will need to give their recommendation per State Statute 8-24 before the Town can proceed further. The Selectmen discussed timing and scheduling of the Town Meeting to give the Planning Commission time to act, and what would be most convenient for the townspeople – allowing as many to attend as possible.

Motion:

To schedule a Special Town Meeting to approve a resolution to lease Town property to Homeland Towers for the purpose of construction of a cell tower, on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Scheduling of a second Special Town Meeting, most likely in early April, will be done at a later date for the purpose of placing the names of Board of Education candidates on a ballot for voting in May at the School Referendum.

Visitors:

* Alan Sandals attended this evening's meeting to introduce himself as a new resident on River Road. He also inquired as to the placement of a street sign for River Road at the intersection of

Green Hill Road. Mark Lyon will speak with Kevin Smith, Highway Director.

* Nick Solley asked the Selectmen to think seriously about the request to place the sign advertising the hot dog stand at Flirtation and Route 202, reminding them of the State's opinion of such placement.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.m. to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss a personnel matter regarding Town Hall staffing.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:20p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Tony Bedini, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary