

April 30, 2009

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES.

Public: Tammy Rill, Harry Wyant, Chris Charles.

Call to order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 Regular Meeting and the April 23, 2009 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Old Firehouse:

Steep Rock Association will be moving its office from the second floor of the Old Firehouse. The space will be available for rent sometime in July 2009. Anyone interested in learning more may contact the First Selectman's Office.

* Charter Oak Tree:

The trimming work on the Charter Oak tree on Town Hall property has been completed by Bill Pollock and crew of Arbor Services. The Washington Garden Club initiated the work and Arbor Services donated their services. The Town of Washington is very grateful.

* Important Dates:

Region #12 Budget Referendum and Voting for Board of Education Candidates: May 5, 2009, 6:00a.m.-8:00p.m.; Town of Washington Budget Hearing: May 7, 2009, 7:30p.m.; Town of Washington Annual Town Budget Meeting, May 21, 2009, 7:30p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Awarding of Bids for Services in four areas of Sanitation beginning July 1, 2009: Mark explained there had been a great deal of interest and thanked all who had submitted bids.

1) Motion: To award the bid for Operation of the Transfer Station to Wyant and Company of Washington, CT for one year for \$66,000. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Mark explained that although there had been a slightly lower bid received, it was felt to be in the best interest of the Town to award this to Wyant & Co as it is a one year contract, and the Town has appreciated the fine work and willingness of Wyant & Co. to work with them on various matters. The fee has not been increased. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Motion: To award the bid for Hauling of Municipal Solid Waste to Stone Construction of Southbury, CT for three years for a price of \$16 per ton the first year, \$16.40 per ton the second, and \$16.75 per ton the third. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

3) Motion: To award the bid for Hauling of Recyclable Materials to Stone Construction of Southbury, CT for three years for a price of \$215 per trip for the first year, \$225 per trip for the second, and \$235 per trip the third. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

4) Motion: To award the bid for Curbside Collection and Hauling of Recyclables to Oliver Rubbish Removal of Oakville, CT for three years for a price of \$42,500 per year the first year, \$43,500 the second and \$44,500 the third. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Invitation to Bid for Replacement of the Nettleton Hollow Road Bridge over Sprain Brook:

Motion: To extend and Invitation to Bid for Replacement of the Nettleton Hollow Road Bridge over Sprain Brook. The project involves replacement of the existing metal pipe arch culvert, reclamation and resurfacing of approximately 420 feet of Nettleton Hollow Road and appurtenant work. Bids will be received until 3:00 p.m. on May 26, 2009 in the Selectman's Office. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the site on May 14, 2009 at 9:00a.m. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Lenard Engineering has prepared the specifications and plans for this project. They will be available in the Office of the First Selectman. The motion passed unanimously.

Invitation to Bid for Chipsealing:

Motion: To extend an invitation to bid for a price/gallon of approximately 55,000 gallons of CRS-2 oil used for chipsealing of town roads. Price is to include the cost of material (not including stone, to be provided by Town), equipment and labor to complete the chipseal process for various locations within the Town of Washington road system. Option: price/gallon of polymer add/on. Sealed prices will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2009 at the Selectmen's Office. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

2009-2010 Budget Update:

Mark reported the Board of Selectmen has met twice with the Board of Finance regarding the budget for the next fiscal year. The Board of Finance has accepted the recommendations made. Increases in health insurance, winter maintenance and pension fund contributions, will result in a 1.4% increase to the General Fund. A \$20,000 Legal Litigation Fund (which has been newly created and can be carried over from year to year if not used) and the addition of the Open Space and Housing Funds to the General Fund (previously part of the Capital Fund) will result in a 3.5% increase in the General Fund. Mark further explained that the Town employees will receive a 0% increase in salaries – this has been graciously accepted. The willingness and understanding of the employees is to be commended by the Town's taxpayers and Mark asked that the minutes reflect this. He further compared this to salary increases in Region #12. In summary, the Capital Fund will decrease by 9.8%. Overall – General Fund plus Capital Fund = .4% increase.

Visitors:

* **Chris Charles** asked to comment on the Open Space Fund and Housing Fund reductions and gave background as to when the original Open Space Steering Committee was formed and how it (and later Housing) were involved in planning processes for the Town. He suggested that when funds are to be cut, the members of the original committees be consulted and asked for their input. Mark spoke to the fact that this reduction is hoped to be a one-year reduction to cut spending and keep the budget down. It is not anticipated that the lower contribution to these two funds will remain in the future budgets. Chris further commented on the need to examine the current financial situations in Town and plan for the future. He used the number of people who commute to Town as an example of change – many were Washington residents who can no longer afford to live here. He suggested we look at the amount of money that is spent on educating our children vs. the number who stay and/or return to Washington. Mark agreed but also reminded those present that with diminished income from the State, lower interest rates on our investments, lower income through conveyance taxes, etc. in order to keep taxes down, some things had to be cut from the budget.

Adjournment:

* Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary