

December 10, 2009

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.

Public: Susan Schulman, Dirk Sabin, and Linda McGarr.

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

Minutes:

* Motion:

To approve the minutes of the November 24, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Appointment of Kerry O'Toole to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mark Lyon contacted Ms. O'Toole, a Democrat, who had run for this Board in the November elections and who is now willing to fill the vacancy created by Roderick Wyant III's resignation. The Democratic Town Committee also endorses this appointment.

Motion:

To appoint Kerry O'Toole to the Board of Assessment Appeals until November 2011.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Lyon reported the following:

* Letter from the Office of Victim Advocate, State of Connecticut: Mark received a letter acknowledging and thanking a member of his staff, Mary Anne Greene, for assisting a resident of the Town who had been a crime victim.

* Review of Route 47/Bee Brook Road speed limit:

Several residents have requested a reduction of the speed limit on Bee Brook Road from 50 to 45 mph. The DOT will review.

* Probate Court Consolidation:

At a meeting on December 1st the seven towns that will make up the new Regional Probate Court District, voted by a 4 to 3 vote to have the Court in the Southbury Town Hall, using their current Probate facility. This regionalization/move will occur in January of 2011.

* WCHT Informational Meeting:

December 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m. regarding the Marbledale Meadows proposal on Mygatt Road. The Town Meeting to vote on the Town's allocation of \$110,000 from the Housing Fund will be on January 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

* Energy Grant:

The Town is eligible for a grant of \$34,000, along with Warren, that will be applied for a photovoltaic solar system on Arrow Point on Lake Waramaug that could save both Towns considerable amounts of

money to run the aeration system. Although minimal site disturbance is expected, once the grant commitment is received, the Town will begin the process with Land Use for any necessary permits.

* Holiday in the Depot:

Friday night, December 11th, 6:00p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Invitation to Bid for Highway Department truck:

Motion:

To extend an Invitation to Bid for a new 2009 or 2010, 41,900 lb. GVWR six (6) wheel dump truck complete with combination dump body/material spreader, snow plow frame and plow. Bids should include trade in allowance for 1995 International dump truck with plow (available for inspection at the Town Highway Garage) but reserves the right to sell this truck separately. Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:30p.m. on January 7, 2010 at the Office of the First Selectman, Bryan Memorial Town Hall, 2 Bryan Plaza, Post Office Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794. Bids will be opened at 5:30p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Specifications are available from the Selectman's Office at the above address or by calling 860-868-2259.

The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to consider alternatives and to award the bid in the best interest of the Town of Washington, with quality, availability and availability of service as determining factors.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

* Discussion of audit recommendations:

As a result of the Town's audit by Charles Heaven & Company, and discussion this evening, the following recommendations were made to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion:

To make the following recommendations to the Board of Finance:

- 1) To reduce the transfer of \$50,000 to \$40,000 from the Sanitation section to the Highway section of the 2008-2009 General Fund budget. (Revised transfer will be \$40,000 from Sanitation and \$20,000 from Health to the Highway Section of the General Fund budget for a total transfer of \$60,000).
- 2) To include Bank Fees as a line item in the Other Expenditures section of the General Fund budget.
- 3) To reappropriate Ex-Budget Expenditures as approved in the 2008-2009 General Fund budget for the 2009-1010 budget in the amount of \$10,724.
- 4) To transfer funds of \$7,000 from the Health Deductible line item and \$9,000 from the Dental line item to the Health Insurance Deductible Fund.
- 5) To offset Building Department expenses by income received as audited.
- 6) To offset Police Private Duty expenses by income received as audited.

By Nick Solley, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* Susan Schulman/Dirk Sabin: garden in memory of her daughter Susannah:

Susan explained that her daughter, Susannah, who passed away two years ago had been a member of the Washington Volunteer Ambulance, and her volunteering of time to this organization was very important to her. Susan is also of the firm belief, being a volunteer herself, that volunteerism is an extremely

important part of the Town. She has been working with Dirk Sabin, landscape architect, and is in the early phases of planning a garden on Town property that would not only enhance the community, honor her daughter and all volunteers. The area she is referring to is the “park” along River Road – with permission she did some clean up of debris last spring and would now like to begin the next phase. Plans were shown to the Selectmen that Mr. Sabin has done, work can be performed in phases. Plantings would be perennial and would be relatively low maintenance. As there are no monies budgeted by the Town for more maintenance of such areas, it was suggested that if the planting require attention in the early years, perhaps the Village Improvement Society and/or the Washington Garden Club could be approached. Following a review of the plans, discussion, etc., the Board of Selectmen felt that as there would be no cost to the Town, it could be nothing but a plus. They unanimously agreed to support the idea with the suggestion of Ms. Schulman contacting Barbara Bouyea (abutting property owner), the Planning Commission and if necessary the Inland Wetlands Commission.

* Chris Charles – WCHT and DECD:

Chris asked if Mark Lyon had been successful in contacting Mr. Santoro of the Department of Economic and Community Development regarding the Housing Trust’s grant application for affordable housing at Marbledale Meadows. Mark explained that he had, monies are available, the State has received many inquiries but no complete applications have yet been submitted or processed. There is no guarantee the Housing Trust’s application will be approved; however there is no reason to think it does not have a good chance.

Adjournment:

* Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:46 and the Selectmen re-entered their Regular Meeting.

Adjournment:

* Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.
By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen’s Secretary