

• **May 29, 2008**

## **Special Meeting**

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton, Nicholas N. Solley. Board of Education members Matt Franjola, Tony Bedini, Jim Hirschfield, Valerie Andersen, Irene Allan.

Press: Jack Coraggio-Litchfield County Times.

Public: Valerie Friedman, Chris Charles.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION with Washington Members of the Shepaug Valley Region #12 Board of Education:**

Mark Lyon opened the meeting commending the Board of Ed members for the work they do and expressed gratitude for their dedication in doing the best job in representing the Region's children. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was not to dispute reports, numbers published, etc. but rather to have a sharing and exchange of ideas and concerns.

Mark went on to state that the Town of Washington has been very clear on it's preference for **one** referendum on the renovation vs. consolidation issue. If it should be a two-step vote, it must be a clear choice for all voters. The Board of Selectmen would not support a referendum that did not give our voters all options available.

Discussion continued with Tony Bedini expressing his opinions on findings of the Building Committee; Matt Franjola explaining CREC numbers presented vs. SLAM numbers; Irena Allan and Valerie Andersen both spoke of the need for fair comparison of projects and related estimates of costs. Mark expressed the importance of having hard and honest numbers and contingencies based on conceptual designs.

Lease negotiations were also discussed and the problems occurring because of the difference of opinions among the Towns in the Region. A large area of concern is with the inclusion of maintenance costs (real or projected) in the leases, what would happen if the buildings turned back to the Towns. Jim Hirschfield referred to statutes dealing with the turning of the school buildings back to the Towns, the responsibility of the Board of Education to the students, the process of de-regionalization, etc.

There was general discussion from visitors and Board members about various alternatives and ideas on the three schools vs. consolidation - i.e. Bridgewater keeping it's own "satellite" school for K-3 and Roxbury and Washington "consolidating" perhaps on Roxbury property.

### **Adjournment:**

• **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary