

March 14

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

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES.

Public: Peter Talbot, Manny Clark, Pat Welles, Diane Chase, Robert Tomlinson, Sheila Anson, Chris Charles, Valerie Anderson.

Call to Order: First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

MOTION:

To add subsequent business not already on the agenda.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini.

Discussion:

this will include one appointment to the Housing Commission and two matters of business from the Director of Emergency Management.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the February 28, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the March 6, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications:

* Letter of thanks to Arbor Services:

Mark Lyon read the following letter sent to Bill Pollock of Arbor Services on March 7, 2013: "Dear Bill: On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Washington, thank you for your very generous gift of your time and talent in pruning and feeding the Charter Oak tree on the Town Hall grounds. Your help in preserving this historic tree is greatly appreciated by all! Sincerely, Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman".

Appointments and Resignations:

* Resignation of Gary Fitzherbert from the Board of Finance:

Gary Fitzherbert has submitted a letter of resignation as a full member of the Board of Finance, effective immediately. The Selectmen have accepted his resignation with gratitude for his service on this Board. Mark Lyon explained that the Board of Finance will discuss the vacancy at their next meeting. They are the only board that fills their own vacancies – they have the choice of leaving the vacancy open, moving an alternate to a full member, or appointing someone new as a full member or alternate. The "appointed" member would then need to be placed on the next municipal ballot for election.

* Appointment of Leslie Anderson as a full member of the Housing Commission:

Housing Commission Chairman Liddy Adams has requested that Leslie Anderson, an alternate, be appointed as a full member to fill a vacancy. Motion: To appoint Leslie Anderson as a full member of the Housing Commission.

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

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

*** 2013-2014 Budget Workshops:**

The Board of Selectmen continues to work on next year's budget. They have met with most departments to review requests. There are still figures needed on various service contracts before final numbers can be arrived at.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Renewal of lease for Beach House tenants:**

The tenants of the Beach House are interested in staying on. The Parks and Recreation Commission, and Buildings and Property Commission have recommended renewing the lease.

Motion:

To renew the lease with Chris and Leah Papsin for the period April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014.

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

*** Washington Art Association – Peter Talbot:**

Architect Peter Talbot attended this evening's meeting on behalf of the Art Association to discuss possible future expansions to the building. The first phase would involve expanding out of the front of the building, incorporating the present patio, meeting ADA requirements, etc. This would have a minimal effect on the septic system – an upgrade only. Peter has spoken with the various land use offices, including health. The second phase, would be a much larger expansion in back of the building, which would require expansion of the current septic system. As the Town may be upgrading drainage in the Plaza (through a grant), and there has been discussion of other possible changes to the Plaza, Peter was asking that the Art Association's possible expansion be kept in mind. Mark Lyon and the Selectmen agreed this would be wise and will make accommodations in the Plaza Plan.

*** Setting of an Agenda for a Special Town Meeting – Board of Education candidates:**

Mark Lyon explained that the Board of Selectmen had approved having a Special Town meeting to nominate candidates for the Board of Ed (as opposed to nominating and electing at the May Town Meeting). This would give the public time to learn about the candidates, who then would be voted on at the May School Budget Referendum. Four of Washington's six members of the Board are up for re-election in May.

Motion:

To set a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of

nominating four candidates for the Board of Education.
By Dick Carey, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

*** Emergency Plan Regulations for Elections:**

Emergency Management Director Rocky Tomlinson explained that the Secretary of State – Elections Division, has required each Town's Elections Officials to submit a contingency plan to the Board of Selectmen for approval. He, Town Clerk Sheila Anson, Registrars Patricia Welles and Diane Chase, have worked on this plan and presented it this evening.

Motion:

To approve the "Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections" as presented.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion:

the plan deals with anything that would disrupt the current plan for elections, be it weather, loss of power, need to use the Town Hall as a shelter, etc.

The motion passed unanimously.

*** Memorandum of Understanding with the Northville Amateur Radio Association:**

Rocky Tomlinson explained that by joining with this Association, it would become part of the Town's back up emergency communications – tied into DEMHS Region #5 and ham radio operations that are nation-wide. The Depot Firehouse – the Town's Emergency Operation's Center – would be acquiring ham radio equipment and the Northville Association will be using the Town's tower space on Fenn Hill.

Motion:

To approve and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northville Amateur Radio Association as presented.

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

Visitors:

* Valerie Anderson invited the Board of Selectmen and townspeople to attend the Region #12 budget workshop on Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00p.m. at the Shepaug School. The budget will be presented and examined line by line.

* Chris Charles has requested information on the amounts of Town funds spent on legal matters – particularly in the area of land use and the Wykeham project. He is asking the Board of Selectmen if there is a point at which the Town will question whether or not to spend more. Mark Lyon explained that when this particular matter began 3+ years ago, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance felt the Town should defend it's boards and commission and the decisions made.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary