

## • **May 17, 2007**

**Present:** First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, and Mark E. Lyon.

**Press:** Ann Compton-VOICES

**Public:** Jane and Jack Boyer, Susan Payne, Diane Dupuis, Steve Waddleton, Sandra Canning, Debra Avery, Valerie Andersen, Chris Charles.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Richard Sears called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 3, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

### **Communications:**

- **E-mail from Joe Mustich** to the Board of Selectmen was received this morning as a follow up to a discussion at last week's Budget Hearing regarding the Gunn Memorial Library and the suggestion that there be "a place for the public on the board ....as they are listed in the proposed Town budget." Mark Lyon stated he was in agreement with this suggestion but he and the other Selectmen felt it was a subject that required further investigation and discussion at a future meeting.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Verizon Cell Tower application:** Dick Sears reported on what has happened over the last several weeks:

\* there will be a Public Hearing, scheduled by the Connecticut Siting Council, at the Town Hall on June 21st, balloons will also be flown at the proposed sites.

\*he has met with Blake Levitt (consultant) to clarify issues.

\*he has interviewed two attorneys and would recommend Stephen Smart to represent the Town of Washington - he has worked for Litchfield and Brookfield on cell tower issues.

\*he has interviewed Walter Cooper - RF Engineer.

\*he is recommending, at Blake's suggestion, that a survey be done and that the cell tower committee reconvene and be expanded to include Andy Shapiro, Mike DeFronzo, David Thomson and Carlos Canal.

\*a Special Selectmen's meeting will be scheduled on May 22nd at 7:00p.m. to meet with Attorney Smart and the new committee members will be invited to attend. **Motion:** To ask the Board of Finance for a \$10,000 ex-budget appropriation to have the Town represented (attorney and RF engineer) with the Siting Council. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. Discussion - Nick Solley voiced his opinion that he is in favor of the expenditure and feels we need to get a clear picture of what direction the Town is going to head in. He also feels we need to be responsible to all citizens - some of whom wish to have cell

service. We need to spend money appropriately so that all townspeople are represented. Mark Lyon also voiced his approval of the expenditure as we have applied for and been approved as an intervener, we should represent the Town wisely. Jane Boyer asked if municipal properties could be considered for future tower placements. The motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Extend an Invitation to Bid for Roof Replacement at Pavilion Hall: Motion:** To extend an Invitation to Bid for the removal and installation of the Pavilion Hall roof and associated incidentals, located at 17 East Shore Road, New Preston. Bids will be received until 4:00p.m. on May 31, 2007. Specifications are available from the Selectman's Office. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

### **Visitors:**

- **Valerie Anderson** again asked the Board of Selectmen to consider spending time and money to have the Town's Hartford attorney review the Region #12 documents and State Statutes concerning the upcoming referendum regarding the creation of a consolidated elementary school. She feels that the original documents forming the regional school district show Bridgewater's position to be illegal, but it is most important for the people of Washington to know just how the Town stands on this issue. Nick Solley asked why duplicate work that has already been done by the Board of Ed, which has already received a legal opinion on this matter. Jack Boyer voiced his opinion that the Town should not spend any money on getting another legal opinion - if the original document and statutes are read, it is very clear that the Board of Ed's attorney is correct. Jane Boyer informed those present that prior to the referendum both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees would be getting together to get information out and would be calling registered voters to get out and cast their votes. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington supports the Shepaug Regional School Board of Education's right to hold a referendum on the consolidated school issue and urges all citizens in the towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington to make an informed vote on June 19th. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:25p.m. to enter into **Executive Session** to discuss a personnel matter. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen adjourned the Executive Session and re-entered the Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:07p.m.

### **Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:07p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary