

March 27

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

Press: Mike Preato - VOICES

Public: Jane Boyer, Jack Boyer, Chris Charles.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen by Tony Bedini, seconded by Dick Carey, and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen by Tony Bedini, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Washington Community Housing Trust:

At its meeting on March 11, 2013, the Washington Housing Commission voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that it allocate \$50,000.00 of the Housing Commission funds to the Washington Community Housing Trust. The Washington Community Housing Trust requests a meeting with the selectmen to present their affordable housing plan for the Vincent Farm Project, 181 New Milford Turnpike and to request that the Board increase the amount to be approved at a town meeting from \$50,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Mark Lyon felt this request would warrant a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Housing Commission, and the Washington Community Housing Trust. If the board supported their request, it would need to go before the Board of Finance for their approval.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Allen Kerr from the Historic District Commission:

Allen Kerr has submitted a letter of resignation as a member of the Historic District Commission effective immediately. The selectmen have accepted his resignation with gratitude for his service on this commission. Jane Boyer, chairman of the Historic District Commission, also received the letter and will discuss filling the vacancy at their next meeting and making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for an appointment.

First Selectman's Report:

* Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee and the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee are winding down their twenty-year agreement with member towns and beginning to liquidate contingency funds accumulated from member towns' tipping fees. Washington has received its first disbursement of \$28,418. and \$5,500.

Old Business:

*** Town Garage Location:**

Since December, when residents requested that the Board of Selectmen look into an alternative site for the town highway department, Mark Lyon has met with them for discussion. There has been no further action to present information and Mark recommends that the town move ahead with rebuilding the garage on the current property.

Motion:

To approve the construction of a town garage building at the current location of 10 Blackville Road, by Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini, and unanimously approved.

New Business:

*** Draft of 2013-2014 Town Budget:**

The Board of Selectmen have been working on the draft for the 2013-2014 town budget over the past several months to present to the Board of Finance on April 1st. The general fund is operating at a 0.65% increase and there are still a couple of outstanding items to be reviewed for the non-recurring capital expenditures.

*** E-Waste Contract:**

The current e-waste collection service for the town does not comply with State of Connecticut regulations so the Board of Selectmen have received proposals from other firms. Covanta Energy, who the town executed an agreement with in January for municipal solid waste disposal recycling services, submitted an e-waste collection and recycling proposal from ECOvanta, their electronics recycling division. Mark has reviewed the proposal and made the recommendation to partner with ECOvanta beginning at the end of April through June 2014.

Motion:

To approve the contract proposal from ECOvanta, the electronics recycling division of Covanta Energy, to support and manage the Town of Washington's E-Waste needs, by Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini, and unanimously approved.

*** CCM Prescription Card Program:**

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has made it possible for the town to offer prescription savings to our residents who are without health insurance or a pharmacy benefit plan. Mark has reviewed this plan with the local pharmacy and other towns who use it and feels it would be foolish not to offer it to our residents.

Motion:

To approve the proposal from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities to provide a direct and

exclusive benefit to the town's residents through the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program by Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini, and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* Chris Charles submitted for the record a letter from a resident in Washington that was published in the local newspapers in response to the Washington Zoning Commission's vote to approve the Wykeham Project. Chris asked the Board of Selectmen if they had read the letter and does the board have any concerns with the Zoning Commission's decision? He feels the issues pointed out in the letter regarding the effect the project would have on property values were valid. Mark Lyon responded that it is not the duty of the First Selectman to dictate policy to town land use boards and supports the decisions made by the Zoning Commission.

* Jack Boyer asked the Board of Selectmen if they would be addressing the 2013-2014 budget for Regional School District #12 that shows a moderate rise in cost but declining student enrollment? Jack feels the selectmen of the three towns should negotiate with the Board of Education for lower costs per pupil. The selectmen responded there have been representatives from Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance from all three towns attending the budget hearings and the new superintendent of schools is encouraging the town leaders to participate. Further discussion included the reduction of administrators/staff, the operating cost of four buildings, technology increases, and long-range plan of development for student enrollment and facilities.

Adjournment:

Before adjourning, the Board of Selectmen offer *Congratulations* to Mary Anne Greene and her family on the birth of her grandson, Tyler William Gibbs!

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:04 PM as there was no further business for discussion, by Dick Carey, seconded by Tony Bedini, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila M. Anson
Acting Clerk