• June 29, 2006

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, Mark E. Lyon.
Press: Ann Compton-Voices, Sydney Schwartz-Waterbury Republican
Public: Steven Alesevich, Roderick M. Wyant III

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:32p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 15, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors: First Selectman Sears welcomed those in attendance.

Communications:

- Dick Sears received an email from Deborah Ghose of the**Washington Ambulance Association** notifying him that **Erik Quist,** 9 year old son of John and Pam Quist, was the winner of the**1st Annual Poster Contest "Help us Find You".** The subject matter was the importance of having your house number displayed and the winner was chosen at the Firemen's Carnival. Erik will get to be "Honorary First Selectman" for a day. All posters will be displayed in the Town Hall foyer. Dick has been in touch with Erik and a day will be planned.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of two alternates to the Planning Commission:**As there were four candidates for two positions, the Selectmen voted by ballot, the two highest being selected. **Motion:** To appoint**Barbara Braverman as an alternate to the Planning Commission to 12/31/06 and Richard Carey as an alternate to the Planning Commission to 12/31/08.** By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved. Mark Lyon asked that the record show the Selectmen's gratitude to all four candidates for volunteering for this position and understood it was a difficult position for all to be in.

- **Appointment of an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission: Motion:** To appoint **John M. Potter as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission to 6/30/08.** By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Reappointments: Motion:** To reappoint **John Allen to Building and Property Commission to 7/1/09, Dorothy Hill as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission to 6/30/09, Kathryn Coe as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Commission to 6/30/09, Georgia P. Whitney to the Judea Cemetery Commission to 6/30/11 and Dean Sarjeant to the Lake Waramaug Authority to 6/30/09.** By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Homeland Security Resolution:** Dick Sears explained that the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security requires a Resolution authorizing the First Selectman to act on behalf of the Town of Washington for participation in the Emergency Management grant program. **Motion: Resolved:** That the First Selectman, Richard C. Sears, be and hereby is authorized to

act on behalf of the Town of Washington in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for participation in the FY 2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **National Anthem Project:** Dick has received correspondence from Gina Sparks, "Mrs. Manchester"-a contestant in the upcoming Mrs. Connecticut America Pageant. Mrs. America has chosen the National Anthem Project as its platform. A recent survey indicates a problem with our country's ability to voice its patriotism and national pride**.** There appears to be a lack of knowledge of American historic songs and nearly two in three Americans do not know all of the words to the Star Spangled Banner. September 14, 2006 has been proclaimed to be National Anthem Project Day. Dick has spoken with the Washington Primary School Principal who is in favor of the project and supporting it with the children. The Town will also do some activity as well and will formally declare, by Proclamation, that date as National Anthem Project Day in the Town of Washington. **Motion:** To support and endorse the National Anthem Project. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

- **Employees Dental Insurance Program for 2006-2007:** Dick explained that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance have been carefully studying and reviewing the rising cost of health and dental insurance for Town employees. There is indication that employees may be asked in the future to contribute to the health insurance program. There will be no additional cost to employees for health for fiscal year 2006-2007. There has been discussion to ask employees who wish to continue with the dental program for 06-07, to pay $5 per pay period toward the cost - or they can choose not to participate in the program. There has also been thought of the Town "self insuring" the dental program. **Motion:** To keep the same dental program that is in place and to ask the employees to contribute $5 per pay period if they choose to stay in the program. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. **Discussion:** Mark Lyon expressed his concern that asking the employees to contribute the $5 per pay period now for the coming fiscal year (starting July 1st) was too late. He is not opposed to the employee contribution but felt it should be discussed earlier in the budget process and employees should be given more time to think about it. Nick Solley explained that the Town's insurance agent was not able to get costs to the Selectmen until late in May and therefore the costs were not available earlier. Nick also expressed his concern about asking for the contribution at this time and felt that the self-insured idea could be looked into further and there would be the potential for savings if this were adopted. Dick Sears stated he too has reservations about the contribution for this year and would like to use the next 8 months to work on a program and prepare employees. The original motion was **withdrawn** by Dick Sears and Mark Lyon withdrew his "second" to the motion. **Motion:** To continue the Dental Program for Town employees as it is for fiscal year 06-07. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:03p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary