

May 9, 2013

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

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES

Public: Robert Tomlinson, Jane and Jack Boyer, Murray Haber, Walter Whitney, Chris Charles, Ted Bent.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 25, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 29, 2013 Special Meeting with the following correction: time of adjournment should be 6:32 p.m.

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

Communications:

* Thank you from WPS students who came to the Town Hall to interview Mark Lyon about recycling.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Baldwin Hill Road Paving is complete.

* Bryan Plaza Project Committee:

The Committee that will be formed to review the RFQs received as part of the DOT Enhancement Grant, is beginning to be formed: Dimitri Rimsky, Planning Commissioner; George Verrastro, owner of Washington Food Market, Kevin Smith, Highway Director. A Selectmen and a member of the Buildings and Property Commission will also sit on this committee and the Selectmen are waiting for a recommendation from the Washington Business Association.

* FEMA Meeting re: the Town's reimbursement application for expenses incurred in the February snowstorm was held this morning with a FEMA representative, Mark Lyon and Kevin Smith-Highway Director.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Visitors:

* *Walter Whitney*, Washington Community Housing Trust, explained to those present that there is a time frame to be met in order to go forward with the Vincent Property project. Presently they are up against a deadline to refinance. The original lender would like to be reimbursed and the Trust has found short-term lenders who are willing to help with funding the project if there is support and commitment from the Board of Selectmen to go ahead with a Town Meeting to gain approval from the townspeople. Mark Lyon explained that the Board of Selectmen has not reached a decision as to what to recommend to the Board of Finance. The Selectmen will have a Special Meeting on May 15th to discuss the request of the Housing Trust to the Housing Commission for funding from the Affordable Housing Fund. Following that meeting, the Selectmen will make a recommendation to the Board of Finance at their meeting on May 20th. Mr. Whitney thanked the Selectmen for their consideration and advised them the Trust needed an indication of support - or not - by May 22nd.

* *Rocky Tomlinson* inquired about the Connecticut Trees of Honor Project in Middletown that was discussed at the last regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Mark Lyon read the letter that requested a \$1500 donation to plant a tree in honor of Stephen Reich. Inquiries will be made of various Town organizations as to funding. Rocky also inquired about the status of the cell tower. Mark explained that the Town has received both the option payment and due diligence payment that were specified in the lease agreement. Homeland Towers has hired a firm to prepare the Siting Council application. Homeland will notify the Selectmen when this process has been completed.

* *Chris Charles* inquired about the Bryan Plaza DOT Enhancement Grant – asking if the funds applied for could go “beyond the Plaza”. Mark explained that the funds were to be used for storm water management, parking, lighting and ADA upgrades. River Road would be included in the project – tying in with the traffic pattern, etc. The Request for Qualifications will be extended within a month.

* *Jane Boyer* inquired as to the status of repairs to Bryan Memorial Town Hall following the propane explosion. The Selectmen explained that the windows in the Main Hall would be installed as soon as the weather allowed; the architectural design concepts for the stage and auditorium areas have been received and four companies will be interviewed next week. RFP’s will be extended to contractors for construction and modifications of the boiler room and basement area next week. Jane felt the process was taking “a long time”. The Selectmen further explained they have not raced through the process – demolition needed to be completed, structural analysis done, insurance settlements still being negotiated, etc.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 5:56p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.
By Tony Bedini, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary