

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
October 29, 2020**

Meeting held via video conferencing.

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton. Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.
Public: Joan Lodsins, Michelle Gorra, Chris Charles, Washington Assessor Daniel Kenny.
Press: Linda Zukauskas.

Call to Order: First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications:

- **Memo from Town Clerk:**

TO: Jim Brinton, First Selectman
FROM: Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk
DATE: October 29, 2020
Jim –

First of all, thank you for your leadership in 2020 and setting the tone for the Town of Washington to be patient, kind, and strong during these unusual times.

The purpose of the message is to recognize some people who have been working very hard on the 2020 State Election. Millie Johnson, Assistant Town Clerk, Denise Arturi and Lois Pinney, Registrars of Voters, and John Gueniat, Machine Tender, have devoted extra time and energy into making sure the election runs smoothly. We have also enlisted the help of a former elected official who is familiar with processing absentee ballots to proof and check lists. There have been other poll workers and volunteers who have spent time being trained under the guidance of the registrars.

It's been overwhelming at times but we have worked well as a team and I appreciate all they have done to make sure those who have the right to vote are able to.

As always, it is a privilege to work with all the town employees, here at town hall and outside town hall, who continue to serve this special community.

Sheila M. Anson, CCTC

- Jim Brinton thanked Sheila and took the opportunity to recognize Sheila as well for her extra time and devotion.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Ted Bent as Zoning Commission alternate:** Ted has submitted his resignation from this position. He will continue to serve on the Board of Finance. **Motion:** To accept, with gratitude, the resignation of Ted Bent as Zoning Commission alternate. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved. Jim has contacted the Democratic Town Committee regarding the vacancy.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported the following:

- **Eversource Update:** Jim has received communication from Eversource that a storm response has been put into place regarding tomorrow's possible storm.
- **School COVID cases:** There are 6 school campuses in Town. Several COVID cases have been reported but all have been handled well with DPH involvement. The Town in general has 2 reported cases. Both are following protocol with DPH involvement. Jim asked Washington residents to remain diligent and to continue to follow strict safety protocols as numbers are rising in the Nation, State and County.
- **Grants:** Still waiting to hear on receipt of funds from the following grants:
\$125,000 STEAP Grant for the Transfer Station.
\$600,000 Community Connectivity Grant for sidewalk improvements.
\$410,000 State DOT funding for Rabbit Hill bridge.
\$285,000 State DOT funding for Calhoun Street bridge.
- **Land Use Department:** Jim has met with all offices in the Land Use Department. Land Use Coordinator Shelly White is looking into various software programs that would tie the Departments together making the permitting process more streamline.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Job Description Update:** The final drafts of Town employee Job Descriptions and Policies are completed. Selectman Jay Hubelbank coordinated this effort. **Motion:** To adopt the most recent Job Descriptions and Policies as written. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Jay Hubelbank thanked everyone for their cooperation. The process of employee goal setting and performance evaluations will begin. The motion passed unanimously.
- **WiFi in the Depot:** WiFi is up and running. Bridgewater's First Selectman has inquired about the process. Jim Brinton referred him to Jay Hubelbank.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Gold Course Road:** An inquiry had been made about having Golf Course Road become a Town Road. The Road, currently owned and maintained by the Washington Golf Club, would then become the responsibility of the Town. As there would be no benefit to the Town, the Selectmen did not discuss it further.

Visitors:

- **Michelle Gorra** inquires about the mapping software that would show, through layering, land parcels. Jim Brinton explained that the Assessor's information is in and will look into how much of Land Use is completed. Michelle also inquired about the number of trucks that have been parked on Town property on Titus Road. Jim explained that Lewis Tree, contracted by Eversource, is using the property for staging while completing work in Town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 5:51p.m. re: Pending Litigation: Dan W. Lufkin v. Town of Washington. Docket No. UWY-CV20-6054330-S. They re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:17p.m. with no action being taken.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:17p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant