

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes**  
**July 8, 2021**

**Hybrid Meeting**

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

**Present:** First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.

**Public:** Dan Sherr, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Carole Matteo, Todd Peterson, Susan Smith, Chris Charles.

**Press:** Linda Zukauskas-VOICES, Lance Reynolds-Republican American.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 29, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments & Resignations:**

- **Thomas Osborne** has submitted notice of his retirement as Fire Marshall and Tree Warden for the Town. The Selectmen thanked Tom for his years of service and dedication in these roles.
- **Motion:** To appoint Troy Kaiser as Acting Fire Marshall, effective immediately. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Troy has been serving as Deputy Fire Marshall since 8/2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Discussion of American Rescue Plan funds:** The Selectmen continue to discuss the distribution of the American Rescue Plan funds – reviewing the criteria, creating a partial listing of non-profits that were adversely affected by COVID-19, improving infrastructure in Town buildings, creation of an emergency shelter, etc. They will also be consulting with the Town Attorney, CCM, NW COG and the Town's auditor.
- **Awarding of truck bid: Motion:** To award the bid for a Tandem/Axle Dump Truck to Gabrielli Truck Sales of CT \$203,817.00. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: although not the lowest bid, the Selectmen, along with the Highway Director, felt it was in the best interest of the Town. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **ASAP request to waive the fee for use of the Main Hall:** ASAPs Celebration of Young Photographers will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 at the Town Hall. This is a free event for the public. As in the past, they are requesting the fee for use of the Hall be waived. **Motion:** To approve the request from ASAP to waive the use fee for use of the Main Hall November 13 and 14, 2021. A Certificate of Insurance, and deposit will be required as well as

payment of the custodian. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

- **Discussion of the Town's authority to regulate cannabis:** Municipalities have received an overview of Municipal Authority in regard to "An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis." The Selectmen briefly discussed various parts of the new bill including allowing the recreational sale of marijuana within the Town which would need approval by referendum, regulation of consumption of cannabis in public areas, fines for improper use, etc. More discussion will be taking place in the upcoming weeks and a Public Information Meeting will be scheduled to provide information and to hear residents' concerns, opinions, etc.
- **Renewal of Harmon's lease: Motion:** To renew the lease between the Town of Washington and Harmon, Inc. rental of the upper level of the "Old Firehouse" for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The rent will remain at \$1250 per month. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

#### **Visitors:**

- **Chris Charles** inquired about the vacant position of Enforcement Officer. Two applications have been received to date. He and the Selectmen agree that the position needs to be filled with someone who not only has the right credentials but the right fit. Chris also asked if a new RFP had been done for the Community/Senior Center that would incorporate housing units as suggested by the Democratic Town Committee. Jim Brinton explained that there would be more discussion prior to that happening.
- **Todd Peterson** commented on the Economic and Community Development Coordinator position stating the title is "exceptionally broad" and questioned why a Town employee is being paid by the Town to do the work of outside organizations/non-profits. Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant expressed support of the position, noting it had been approved in the last two budget cycles. Jim Brinton voiced support as well but further explained that there have been concerns raised by members of the public and the Board of Finance and the Selectmen need to do their due diligence and listen to all sides. This is a new position and the focus of what it should entail is still being worked on. Dean Sarjeant complimented the rapport between the First Selectman and the ECD Coordinator.

#### **Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:14p.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