

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
October 28, 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: Chris Charles, Michelle Gorra, Judy Gorra, Joan Lodsins, Leslie Anderson, Larry Gendron, Shane Mongar, Pam Collins.

Press: Linda Zukauskas.

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 October 14, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Bruce Adams to the Buildings and Properties Committee:** **Motion:** To appoint Bruce Adams to the Buildings & Properties Committee until 7/1/25. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.
- **Reappointment of Karen Silk as Poet Laureate:** **Motion:** To reappoint Karen Silk as Poet Laureate until 10/31/23. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Resignation of Lisa Lundberg from the Housing Commission:** The Selectmen accepted Lisa's resignation with sincere gratitude for her service on this Commission since 2012.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported:

- **Next budget season:** The Selectmen will reach out to the various departments, particularly the Highway and Fire Departments, to keep in mind the large increases in material costs. Because of a lack of materials this year, several paving jobs have not been able to be fully completed. As an example, Mygatt Road has been paved but drainage work will not be completed until next spring. The Highway Department is currently working on doing patching on several Town roads.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Rabbit Hill Road and Calhoun Street Bridges:** **Motion:** To award the bid for repair and replacement of Rabbit Hill Road Bridge to Dayton Construction for \$596,635 and Calhoun Street Bridge for \$505,440. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. **Discussion:** Cardinal Engineering has reached out to Dayton Construction – they will hold the bid amounts even though materials have yet to be received. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Technology:** Jay Hubelbank reported the new router for WiFi in the Depot has been installed at the Judy Black Park and another will be installed in the Hickory Stick building next week. Work

continues on cyber security. There will be staff training as two-factor authentication will be put into place.

- **ARPA Funds:** Jay Hubelbank inquired about the next step for securing what remaining ARPA Funds should be directed to. Jim Brinton explained that He has been soliciting ideas from various organizations and departments. They will be reviewed and if approved by the Board of Selectmen will need to be approved by the Board of Finance and at a Town Meeting.
- **Noise Ordinance:** Jay Hubelbank inquired as to the status of this suggested Ordinance. Jim Brinton explained a draft had been sent to the DEEP. He has some concerns about how such an Ordinance may affect local contractors and who would be in charge of enforcing. Dean Sarjeant stated he feels it would be beneficial to have some sort of guidance/restrictions “on the books” but would not be obstructive to local businesses.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion with Senior Center Director, Pam Collins:** Pam explained that the Center had few to no programs due to COVID but some started back up in September. There will be more events and programs scheduled for after the first of the year. Pam explained that not only was the Center closed because of precautions taken during COVID but some presenters were also not willing to come even as restrictions were lightened. The Senior Van is no longer limited to Wednesday and Friday trips. Residents can request service for any day through contacting the Senior Center. Pam has recently met with the Town’s new Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Connie Chapin, to discuss possible programs sponsored by both departments. Pam requested a sandwich board to place in the Plaza as another way of informing the public of programs.

- **Resolution: Motion:** To adopt the following:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Board of Selectmen, Town of Washington

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that James L. Brinton, as First Selectman of the Town of Washington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Washington and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

- **Adoption of Washington Housing Plan:** The Housing Commission, along with a Housing Task Force and the Planning Commission have worked together and have held several public hearings regarding the Housing Plan which is required to be updated every five years. **Motion:** To adopt the Washington Housing Plan 2022-2027 as presented. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved. Michelle Gorra explained the Plan addresses more than just affordable housing. She thanked all involved for the great input. Jim Brinton suggested that going forward conversations should be scheduled with various groups and Commissions.

Visitors: **Leslie Anderson** indicated that the Washington Community Housing Trust and Habitat for Humanity should be included in conversations regarding the Housing Plan.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:24p.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.