

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
February 17, 2022**

**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

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

**Present:** First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.  
**Public:** Bob Papsin, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Dan Sherr, Ray Reich, Mark Showalter, Fred Cheney, Craig Wilber, Michelle Gorra, Chuck Labella, Susan Smith, Chris Charles.  
**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 February 3, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: appointment of Health Director. The motion passed unanimously.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:**

- **Appointment of Michael Crespan as Health Director: Motion:** To appoint Michael Crespan as Health Director for the Town of Washington for the period February 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Washington has been part of the New Milford Health District for many years. They have merged with Pomperaug Health District which has become the Housatonic Valley Health District. Washington will be joining as well. Until this is approved at a Special Town Meeting (March 24, 2022), our former Health Director, Michael Crespan will be acting Director. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Robert Michael Epps as School Resource Officer: Motion:** To appoint Robert Michael Epps as School Resource Officer for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Officer Epps has been vetted by Region #12 and is a retired Waterbury Police Officer. He will be working under the Washington Police Department. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of David Varnish to the Planning Commission: Motion:** To appoint David Varnish as an alternate member of the Planning Commissions until 12/31/23. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: David has been attending meetings and has the support of the Chairman as well as the Republican and Democratic Town Committees. As he is currently working on a feasibility study for the Town, this appointment was reviewed and approved by Town Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Meeting with other Selectmen:** Jim has been meeting monthly with the First Selectmen of Warren and Kent. As the three Towns that border Lake Waramaug, the Lake Waramaug Authority and the Interlocal Commission fall under their jurisdiction. As the three Towns share similar demographics, there are other areas they have in common and have discussed sharing various resources.
- **Re-opening of Town Hall:** As of next Tuesday, February 22nd 2022, Washington Town Hall will again be open to the public. Although appointments are encouraged, they will no longer be necessary to enter. Masks continue to be required.
- **Region #12 Primary Schools:** The First Selectmen of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, and the Region #12 Facilities Manager, Don O'Leary, have been meeting and touring the three primary schools to assess what is needed to bring them up to proper standards. Capital improvements will be needed in all three. Don will be working on pricing of these improvements. Jim will report further when more information is known.
- **Voting districts:** the State of Connecticut has been reconfiguring legislative districts within the State. This has resulted in a section of Washington with approximately 500 residents having to become a separate district. Registrars have been working with the State to determine how voting will occur in the future. They have learned that two polling places can be located in the same building which will allow use of the upstairs conference room in the Town Hall as a second location. This will take effect at the November 2022 elections.
- **Baldwin Hill Rd & Route 202 Traffic Light:** A new traffic light was installed incorrectly at this intersection causing concern and unfortunately a head-on-collision. DOT was on sight today correcting the problem.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Budget Workshops:** The Selectmen are meeting regularly with departments, boards and commissions regarding 2022-2023 fiscal year budget requests.
- **Special Town Meeting:** At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Selectmen will finalize and set the Agenda for a Special Town Meeting to be held on March 24, 2022.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Approval of PPA with CT Green Bank:** An informational meeting was held last evening regarding the installation of solar panels on Town property. The two buildings under consideration are Bryan Memorial Town Hall and the Bee Brook Fire House. The Trustees of the Town Hall are opposed to the panels being placed on the roof. The Fire Department would like more information and a meeting will be scheduled next week with CT Green Bank. Some residents felt there was not enough information given at the meeting for the Town to make a decision. Jim Brinton mentioned that there may be an alternate site which may give a greater capacity than either building. More information will follow.
- **Renewal of Beach House Lease: Motion:** To renew the Beach House Lease with the same tenant and Beach Caretaker for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Scheduling a Special Town Meeting: Motion:** To schedule a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7:00p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall. The Agenda will be set at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting on March 3, 2022. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

- **Request from Greenwood's Counseling to waive rental fee: Motion:** To approve the request made by Greenwood's Counseling to waive the fee for use of the Main Hall for their fundraiser. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Greenwood's is a non-profit organization that serves the Town of Washington by providing counseling. The Deposit of \$1500 will be required as well as a Certificate of Insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors:**

- **Joan Lods** inquired about the cost of the capital repairs/improvements that will need to be done at the three Primary Schools (mentioned above). Jay Hubelbank explained that although each town owns its building, the Region is responsible for the upkeep and most likely will take out a Bond.
- **Ray Reich** voiced his concerns about the Solar Panel Informational meeting last evening explaining he did not feel the presenters (CT Green Bank) were knowledgeable about the concerns brought up and left several questions unanswered. The Selectmen agreed more work needs to be done and more information made available.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:07p.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