

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
September 28, 2023
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: Michelle Gorra, Judie Gorra, Chris Charles, Joan Lodsins, Andrew Carron, Susan Smith, Rebecca Rebillard, Michael Stoughton, Larry Gendron, Bob Papsin, Bob Woodroffe.

Press: Ann Jamieson – VOICES.

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 September 13, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the minutes of the September 26, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: Letter from Judie Gorra, Housing Commission Chairperson. See below under New Business.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

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

- **New Ambulance Headquarters Information Meeting:** There will be a presentation by Jim Brinton, the Building Committee, and the architectural firm, showing plans, cost estimates, etc. This will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Selectmen's Reports: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Scheduling of a new Ambulance Headquarters Information Meeting: Motion:** To schedule and Information Meeting regarding the new Ambulance Headquarters on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:30p.m. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Information will be sent in the Friday Selectmen's email blast and will be posted on the Town's website. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Scheduling of a Special Town Meeting: Motion:** To schedule a Special Town Meeting to approve funding for the new Ambulance Headquarters on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:30p.m. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Request from the Housing Commission:** The following letter has been received by the Board of Selectmen:
12. Winston Drive
Washington Depot, CT 06794

September 25, 2023
Board of Selectmen
Washington Town Hall
Washington Depot, CT 06794

Dear Sirs:

As the Chairperson of the Washington Housing Commission I am requesting that the following be put on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda on September 28, 2023:

As you know, the Housing Commission is charged with overseeing the Washington Housing Plan. We are continuing to support the efforts of the Washington Community Housing Trust by financially supporting the feasibility studies for the Baldwin Hill Property, educating the public about the need for affordable housing in town, encouraging the donation of land and money for affordable housing, working with the Zoning Commission to develop multifamily housing regulations and advocating for federal and State support for their various projects.

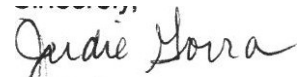
The Housing Commission has been able to help new homeowners become residents of our great town through the town's Downpayment Assistance program, alerting them to the CHFA homebuyer assistance programs and supporting the Habitat for Humanity project on Myfield Road through workshops.

If the Town of Washington were to meet the goal of increasing the number of affordable homes to 30 by 2027 it would probably cost the town or the Washington Community Housing Trust over \$5 million. The money would have to come from private donations or the support of the tax base. As a small step, the Housing Commission is requesting that the Board of Selectmen support the regular transfer of the monies received from the conveyance tax to the

Housing Commission. Last years (June 22-June 23) conveyance tax amounted to 216,844.48.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Judie Gorra
Chairperson

Washington Housing Commission

The Selectmen assured Judie Gorra and the public that they are in complete support of increasing affordable housing in the Town of Washington and committing funds to that end. There was lengthy discussion as to whether the transfer of monies received from conveyance tax payments was the way to go or should a set amount be placed in the Town's budget each year for the Housing Commission. They agreed to continue the discussion, to look at the

Ordinances already in place for funding Housing and to gather further information from Linda Gomez, Finance Director.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:02p.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