

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

October 12, 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: Rebecca Rebillard, Susan Smith, Andrew Carron, Joan Lodsins, Ray Reich, Michael Stoughton.

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 28, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Sarah Clemente from the Arts Council:** Sarah has submitted her resignation as she has accepted the position of PTO Arts Enrichment Coordinator at WPS. The Selectmen accepted her resignation with thanks for the times served and wished her well in her position. Jay Hubelbank thanked the Arts Council for the creation of the Photo Exhibit highlighting the four seasons of Washington.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported:

- **Housing Commission Request:** He will be attending the Housing Commission meeting next Tuesday to further discuss the request made at the last meeting of the Board of Selectmen to approve the transfer of income from conveyance taxes to the Housing Commission to assist in meeting the goal of increasing affordable housing in Washington.
- **Special Town Meeting:** The Special Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th at 7:30p.m. will be to approve funding for the new Ambulance Headquarters.
- **Informational Meeting re: Ambulance Headquarters financing:** The Selectmen discussed the low turnout at the Informational Meeting held on Tuesday, October 10th and ways to encourage better attendance at meetings discussing important issues affecting the Town. The meeting had been publicized on the Town's website, on the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen agendas, the Friday email blasts, front lawn signage, etc. Several good suggestions came as a result of the meeting and information will be available at the Town Meeting on October 17th.

Selectmen's Report:

- **Jay Hubelbank** reported that the Sustainability Committee has gained support for its "No Idling Campaign" from Region #12 and signs will be shared at all Region #12 schools.
- **Dean Sarjeant** reported that the "Lake Keepers" initiative is again being worked on the State is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding. Training will be provided in the Spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Lake Waramaug Interlocal Commission** will be funding a survey in the Spring on how people view the use of the lake. It will address all lake activity – not just wake boat use.
- **Transfer Station:** Jay Hubelbank reported that the composting initiative at the Transfer Station has been a huge success. The program started with two barrels provided for collecting compost materials which were picked up weekly. It has increased to six barrels a week.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Visitors:

- **Ray Reich** expressed concern that if there is a large showing of EMS personnel at the Special Town Meeting to vote on the funding of the Ambulance Headquarters some could perceive the vote as “stacked”. Jim Brinton felt given the amount of information provided at the Informational Meeting by the architects, cost estimators, the building committee, etc. should be what influences how people vote.
- **Rebecca Rebillard** thanked the Selectmen for scheduling the Informational Meeting and that it is important for the Town to support all Emergency Services that are provided at no cost to the public. She urged townspeople to trust the experts and while she, like others, were initially concerned about the cost, she is now “cautiously supportive” and urged others to get all the information available. Dean Sarjeant agreed that he too is now convinced the size and cost of the project is not out of line and that we should be thinking of building for the future – not just for today.

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