

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

March 14, 2024

HYBRID MEETING

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectman Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Judy Gorra, Ellen Kourakos, Leslie Anderson, Henrietta Small, Ray Reich, Lindy Andryc, Scott Williams, Susan Smith, M.B. Lawlor, Nancy Sarnoff, Keith Angell, Norman Dorf, John Lancaster.

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 29, 2024 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

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

- **2024-2025 Budget:** The Selectmen and Finance Director, Linda Gomez, met this morning to continue work on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. It will be presented to the Board of Finance on April 1st, presented to the public at the Budget Hearing on May 2nd and voted on at the Town Meeting on May 16th.

Selectmen's Reports:

- **Dean Sarjeant** reported that all is going smoothly with our affiliation with Housatonic Valley Health District. Sanitarian, Dennis Buell, will be in the Washington office additional hours. Dean also mentioned that there are programs that can be offered at no cost to the Town and these will be looked into.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Awarding of Bid for Transfer Station Hauling and Disposal: Motion:** To award the Bid for Transfer Station Hauling and Disposal for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to Stone Construction, Southbury, CT as bid (a copy of the bid is attached to the minutes filed with the Town Clerk). By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.
- **Lake Waramaug Keeper's Update:** Dean Sarjeant reported that an agreement has been made between the Lake Waramaug Authority and the State Police regarding patrols on Lake Waramaug which has not occurred for the past three years. The patrol boat will, at all times, have a police officer and a "Keeper". Several of those present at the meeting, asked questions about the Keeper program, how it differed from previous years, who covered the cost, etc. The Selectmen confirmed that the program did not differ from the past as there was always a police officer and a driver. It will be paid for by the Lake Waramaug Authority which is funded by the towns of Washington, Warren and Kent. The Selectmen assured those present, the Keepers will NOT be doing any enforcement (that will be the responsibility of the police officer). The Keepers

must be signed off by the police, have a boating license and a medical background. Dean also assured the public that the patrolling of the Lake also provides education and safety to all who use the Lake. He offered to look into the Authority posting meeting agendas and minutes of those meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Request of the Housing Commission to approve \$3300: Motion:** To approve the Request from the Housing Commission to approve an expenditure of \$3300 for a feasibility study on the Washington Community Housing Trust property located on Baldwin Hill Road. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: the request will now go the Board of Finance for its approval. The motion passed unanimously.
- **To approve amending the Ordinance to Establish an Affordable Housing Fund: Motion:** To approve amending the Ordinance to Establish an Affordable Housing Fund to include under Section III: Expenditures from Fund the following language: "Improved land eligible for acquisition shall include, without limitation, property on which a house, building or other structure is situated whether or not habitable at the time of acquisition". By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: The original Ordinance limited the acquisition to parcels of land only. this additional language allows for acquisition of parcels that may also have a dwelling on it. This addition has been vetted by the Town Attorney. Final approval is required at a Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

- **Leslie Anderson** inquired if the change to the Housing Fund Ordinance would place the Town in the position of becoming a landlord. The Selectmen assured her it would not and that it would be the responsibility of the Washington Community Housing Trust.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant