

January 21, 2010

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

Public: Diane Dupuis, Valerie Andersen, Valerie Friedman, Frank Adams, Tony Bedini, Rocky Tomlinson.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 7, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 7, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with an Agenda of “Executive Session” at which no action was taken.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman’s Report:

Mark Lyon reported on the following:

* Proposed Telecommunications Facility at 49 Couch Road, Warren, CT:

As a follow-up to his request to schedule a public informational meeting and public balloon float, Mark has received a letter from Pullman & Comley advising that SBA is not moving forward with this site at the present time. Should SBA decide to pursue this site at a later date, Warren and Washington will be informed.

* Shepaug River Association, Ed Matthews, has contacted Washington and Roxbury regarding future responsibilities regarding water flow measurements and how the cost should be shared. More information and specifics regarding cost projections, etc. will follow.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Awarding of Bid for a Dump Truck for Highway Department:

Mark explained that the bids received were reviewed by the Selectmen and by Kevin Smith, Highway Director. All bids, except one, were over budget and none met the specs.

Motion: Not to award a bid, based on those received, at this time.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Re-bid for a Dump Truck for the Highway Department:

Motion:

To extend an Invitation to Bid for a 2011 Dump Truck for the Highway Department, specifying a standard dump body instead of an all-season body. Bids will be received until 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2010 and opened at 4:00 p.m. at a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

* Possible use of Town-owned property for cell tower site.

Verizon has contacted the Selectmen's Office regarding the suitability of a site for a cell tower on the Town Garage property on Blackville Road – behind the upper storage barn. The main goal would be to provide cell service in Washington Depot. Motion: To grant permission to Verizon to do the necessary investigation for placement of a cell tower on town property on Blackville Road. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Jim Brinton clarified that this was not a formal proposal but merely an initial inquiry as to the suitability of the site, etc. Mark explained that once this is done and if conditions are favorable, a technical report and formal application would be made. There would then be public informational meetings, discussions regarding other companies co-locating on the tower, etc. Diane Dupuis encouraged the Selectmen to be aware of how much income potential there is, and to include in any negotiations that it is imperative that other companies locate on the tower and that there be a time limit for this to occur. The motion passed unanimously.

* Discussion of rent and duties for Caretaker at Town Beach House.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has given their 2nd draft of Caretakers Job Description to the Board of Selectmen for their review. Following discussion and suggestions, the Selectmen made the following Motion: To accept the Job Description outlining duties and responsibilities with the following two changes: Under the General information Section, the Caretaker/Tenant “will pay all utility bills i.e. cable, phone, electric add: “heat”, etc.”; and “will notify Parks & Recreation Coordinator or Selectmen's office of any damage or delete: “major” repairs that are needed. Add: “Damage and any necessary repairs are to be reviewed by the Buildings and Property Committee.” By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

The Lease Agreement will be reviewed and developed with input from Town Attorney, David Miles.

Rent: Motion:

To set the rent for the new Caretakers Cottage at \$500.00 per month, year round.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion:

the number of weeks that the above-mentioned duties need to be performed is minimal, the job is separate from Boat Ramp Director and it is thought that \$500.00 is a very fair amount for a Lake front rental in the Town of Washington.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Scheduling of a Special Selectmen's Meeting with Land Use Commission Chairmen/members:

The Selectmen set this for Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Land Use Room. This will be an informal meeting for sharing of ideas, reports, possible changes to regulations, etc.

Visitors:

* Valerie Andersen:

Valerie suggested 1) that the Town consider preparing an Ordinance that would mandate a paper ballot at

any Town Meeting that involved an expenditure of Town funds. This would confirm the right to vote, by checking property owner lists, and would also give the voters anonymity. Following discussion, Jim Brinton suggested that this be discussed with the Town Clerk and with the Registrars of Voters; 2) that the Town look into affordable housing options that does not go through the Washington Community Housing Trust. She suggested a pilot program that would use homes in Town that are currently on the Market. The Town could use monies from the Affordable Housing Fund to underwrite down payments, etc. This would give families an opportunity to own their own home, the land it is on, invest time, work, etc. and perhaps sell it down the road and make a profit. (The Town's investment would be re-paid at the time of sale.) Discussion followed regarding the property staying affordable, or not, non-involvement of state and/or federal funding, fair housing laws etc. The Selectmen offered to bring this to the attention of the Housing Commission.

* Frank Adams:

Asked if there had been a response from Masseurs Ingrassia or Johnson regarding the height of the stonewall built on Whittlesey Road. Mark said there had been none.

* Diane Dupuis:

Inquired about the height of the fence at the Town Beach property. The Selectmen advised it was 6 feet. Diane reminded that the minutes of a Conservation Commission meeting advised it's being 4 feet. The Selectmen explained that following conversations with the Fence Company, considering security, access for the Highway Department equipment, appearance if height varied, etc. it was decided to have the entire fence be 6 feet. Shrubs will be planted in the spring, which should break and soften the appearance.

* Valerie Andersen:

Asked that the Town be consistent in its enforcement of fencing around swimming pools. It is a state law that pools be enclosed in fencing and there should be no grandfathering of regulations.

Adjournment:

* Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary