

July 9, 2009

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: Chris Charles, Liddy Adams, Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Victoria Cherniske.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Motion: To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion: Business will be in regard to a report from Probate Judge Cherniske on the consolidation of courts in the State and a letter to the owner of the old Texaco Station in the Depot. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 Regular Meeting and the July 2, 2009 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Mark reported on the following:

* Chipsealing

began yesterday after several weather delays and will hopefully be completed by next Wednesday.

* Nettleton Hollow Road Bridge Work

will begin on Monday 7/13 and will necessitate the closing of a portion of the road for approximately 6 weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Awarding of Bid for the Demolition and Reconstruction of the Beach House at Lake Waramaug:

Motion: To award the bid for the Demolition and Reconstruction of the Beach House to Ruscoe/Sedito for \$256,367. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon. **Discussion:** The Selectmen reviewed all bids received and met with Brad Sedito and were satisfied with his bid. The motion passed unanimously.

* 108 New Milford Turnpike – conditions of purchase:

Mark explained that attorneys for the seller and the Town, along with real estate agents, have had numerous discussions. The Phase I study was completed and following more exploratory digging, no environmental nor health hazards were discovered. Debris was found and recommendations have been made for disposal – to be done by the owner. The owner (Washington Partners) want to make certain that once the clean up is accomplished, the Town will follow through with the purchase. Liddy Adams, Real Estate agent for the Town, explained that the original terms of the offer to purchase have changed but that both parties are working well together and there is no reason to feel the purchase will not go through.

* Letter to Board of Education members re: lease and condition of Washington Primary School:

Mark and the First Selectmen of Bridgewater and Roxbury have been working together on a follow up to their letter in April to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education. It is their feeling that nothing has occurred or been resolved as requested. They have drafted a second letter. Valerie Andersen,

as a member of the Board of Education, assured the Selectmen that they are aware of the concerns and that some work is being done. She felt that the Board is going step by step but feels they too have had unavoidable delays due to the bid process, lists being changed, etc. A number has to be arrived at in order to go to a referendum to get the public's approval. She suggested that the lease discussions be put aside for the present and concentrate only on the repair work that needs to be done. Jim Brinton and Nick Solley asked questions pertaining to the delays, unification of the Board on these matters, and committees established within the Board. Discussion continued with input from the Selectmen, Tony Bedini and Valerie regarding lack of response to the Selectmen's concerns by the School Administration, Board of Ed's role, importance of getting the lease issue settled, etc.

Motion: To schedule a Special Selectmen's Meeting on July 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. with the members of the Board of Education (contingent on the availability of the members) to discuss the above mentioned concerns. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Old Texaco Station, Washington Depot:**

Nick Solley explained that the Board of Selectmen has been approached by numerous Washington residents regarding the disintegrating condition of the Texaco Station in the center of the Depot.

Motion: To send a letter to the owner of the property at 1 Green Hill Road requesting his consideration of improving the appearance of the location and if he is not willing to do so, would he be willing to have private organizations and or individuals do so. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

*** Probate Court Consolidation Update:**

Washington Probate Judge Victoria Cherniske attended today's meeting to discuss the consolidation of the probate courts in the State. She has attended numerous meetings and has begun looking into various alternatives. At present, it is her opinion that the best "fit" would be with the Southbury court – the facility is already there and could accommodate Washington as well as Woodbury, Roxbury and Bridgewater. The Probate Administration has asked each of the regions in the State to devise their own consolidation plans. Once these plans are submitted, the Redistricting Commission can review and change. The courts have until September 9, 2009 to submit their plans, they would be voted on in November and become effective January 1, 2011. Chris Charles asked how the sharing of the costs of the larger courts would be determined. Tara explained it would be based on the Grand List. She further explained that another consideration of the consolidation is the storage and/or cost of preservation of the courts volumes – over 150 years of history.

Visitors:

Chris Charles asked if the Selectmen had looked into the possibility of 108 New Milford Turnpike being used for anything other than open space. Mark explained that the negotiations were specific to the property being used for Open Space and Jim Brinton reminded him that the Conservation Commission was also very clear on this issue and the Town approved the purchase for open space at a Town Meeting. Chris felt there was merit in having the Town Attorney advise how, at a later date, a use of a portion of the property could possibly be used for another purpose, i.e. housing. The Selectmen agreed to speak with Attorney Miles but reminded Chris that the purchase was approved with conditions and that all of these have been addressed. Chris inquired about the plans for the Beach House and urged those involved to look into higher insulation levels which would result in a smaller heating system and lower heating costs. He also asked about a storm water system on Romford Road that was put in several years ago and the permitting process involved. Nick Solley advised Chris that without paperwork and plans, he was not able to answer the specific questions.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim

Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary