

• **June 28, 2007**

Present: First Selectmen Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, and Mark E. Lyon.

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES.

Public: Valerie Friedman, Jack Field, Tony Bedini, Stuart Klein.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 14, 2007 Regular Meeting and the June 19, 2007 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Communications:

- The Board of Selectmen received an email from Joe Mustich regarding Nettleton Hollow Road work and bridge replacement. He is concerned about appearance as the road is designated a scenic road. Dick Sears responded explaining he will pass Joe's concern along to Kevin Smith, Highway Director and the scenic road designation will be taken into account when working with the DOT over guardrail design and other safety features.

Appointments/Resignations;

- **Motion:** To reappoint David Showalter to the Buildings and Property Commission until 7/1/10; Mark Picton as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/10; David Thomson as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/10; Ruth Alex to the Judea Cemetery Commission until 6/30/12; and Edwin Matthews to the Lake Waramaug Authority until 6/30/10. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved. Dick explained that Marguerite Purnell was also up for reappointment as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission however, she has written asking that she not be reappointed for another term. The Selectmen will honor her request with sincere gratitude for her 10 year tenure, her knowledge of wetlands and watercourses, and the considerable expertise she brought to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Opening of Bids for a Telephone System for Town Offices:** The following two bids have been received:

1) Business Electronics, Inc., Cheshire, CT: \$12,115 (NEC system, which differed from the specifications)

Alternate bid: \$12,590.

2) Vision Electric, Inc., Torrington, CT: \$11,000 (Panasonic system).

Alternate bid: additional \$2475.

The Selectmen will review and award in a week at a Special Board of Selectmen's meeting - July 5, 4:30 p.m.

- **Opening of Bids of Chip Sealing:** The following bid was received:

1) The Gorman Group, Albany, NY: \$1.98/gallon (for oil, placing and mixing with stone). **Motion:** To award the bid for Chip Sealing to The Gorman Group for a price of \$1.98/gallon. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Personnel - Leave of Absence Request:** Dick Sears explained that Police Officer Caleb Shropshire has requested a leave of absence until July 13. **Motion:** To grant the request of Caleb Shropshire. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. Discussion: Dick explained that this leave would be granted with no payment or accrual of benefit days. Insurance will continue. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Personnel - Groundskeeper Job Description:** This position, which is for the Groundskeeper for the Pavilion and River Walk Park, has been discussed previously with Selectmen and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Parks and Rec has approved it. **Motion:** To approve the job description for the Pavilion and River Walk Park Groundskeeper. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.
- **Arts Charity Request:** Dick Sears explained that a request has been made by the Northwest Council for the Arts to participate in the "Bear Affair" fundraising event by displaying a painted bear on the Town Hall lawn. This will take place from Labor Day to Columbus Day. The Selectmen discussed and approved the request and noted that each request similar to this would need to be considered separately.
- **Road Discontinuance Report:** Dick Sears explained that the Road Discontinuance Committee has met to consider a portion of Old River Road. Before any action is taken (at a Town Meeting), further study will be done and neighboring landowners will be invited to a Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss.
- **Transfer Station DEP Permit:** Dick Sears explained that he has requested a one-year extension with DEP for the Transfer Station permit. He has done this as the DEP is working on streamlining the entire process that would take less time and cost the Town less money.
- **Washington Primary School:** Dick Sears explained that Washington needs to revisit the Primary School issue of what to do if consolidation of the three primary schools is not going to happen. Mark Lyon expressed his feeling that when the building committee (of which he was a member) had presented their report over a year ago, he was very comfortable with the plan. Now the three Towns and the Board of Education have to be on the same track. Estimates for "renovating-to-new" will need to be re-addressed as they are now 2 years old. Jack Field stated that the make up of the Board is now different and issues will need to be resolved. Roxbury and Bridgewater have come up with their plans for renovating their schools and now Washington needs to do the same. In regard to the Washington Primary School, some of the issues that will need to be addressed are the "multi-purpose" gymnasium, curb appeal, student numbers, flood plain location. The Board of Finance has recommended, if the Board of Selectmen agree, to make an ex-budget appropriation of \$15,000 for consulting and professional fees to work on this study. The Selectmen stated their support for this expenditure. A WPS Building Committee will also be formed with members of the community (some of whom may have served on the original committee 2 years ago.) Washington Board of Ed members will be asked to participate ex-officio. The Selectmen will recruit members this week and appoint the committee at next week's Special Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- **Extend an Invitation to Bid for roof replacement of the Pavilion Hall, New Preston:** This bid is

being extended for a second time as only one bid was received when it was originally put out to bid and was over budget. **Motion:** To extend an Invitation to Bid for roof replacement of the Pavilion Hall, New Preston. Bids will be accepted in the Selectmen's Office until 4:00 p.m. on July 12, 2007. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Dick explained this would be to extend an Invitation to Bid for the Boat Ramp and to hire an architect for the Beach Cottage. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Extend an Invitation to Bid for the Boat Ramp and Parking Project:** **Motion:** To extend an Invitation to Bid for Construction of the Boat Ramp and Parking Area at the Town Beach on Lake Waramaug. Bids are due in the Selectmen's Office by 4:00 p.m. on July 26, 2007. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: All funding is in place and demolition of the boathouse will take place within the next several weeks. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Hiring of an Architect for the Beach Cottage:** Dick Sears explained that the new, or renovated, Beach House will need to accommodate the caretaker's living area, public bathrooms, an beach office, storage of the airboat, and grounds keeping equipment. There was discussion of a multi-leveled building that could accommodate the various needs. Dick and Ray Reich of the beach committee have spoken with several architects and would like to recommend the hiring of William Worcester. Mr. Worcester also comes highly recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission as he did work on the Pavilion. **Motion:** To hire William Worcester to work with the Beach Facilities Committee to complete a floor plan for the basement, and possible options for a modular or a stick built second floor, for a cost not to exceed \$5000 for the Town beach facility. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment: **Motion:** To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:50 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Executive Session ended at 6:10 p.m. and the Selectmen re-entered the Regular Meeting.

Adjournment: **Motion:** To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:10 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary