

• February 9, 2006

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

Public: Lindsey Gruson, Chris Charles

Press: Ann Compton, VOICES, Rebecca Ransom, Litchfield County Times.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 26, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors: First Selectman Sears welcomed all visitors, particularly Rebecca Ransom from the Litchfield County Times as this was her first meeting.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Code of Ethics:** The Selectmen continued to work through the draft document, focusing today on the last section of "definitions". Dick Sears also explained he has checked with Dan McGuinness from COG regarding questions from previous discussions. There was discussion about the enforcement of a Code of Ethics and what penalties, if any, would be applied if there were violations. Some towns have adopted such a Code - Washington still has questions. Nick Solley expressed his feeling that now that the draft has been reviewed, the Selectmen should discuss if they feel the Town wants such a code - is it necessary? Would there be an ethics commission to report to, etc?
- **Opening of Bids for sale of Police Cruiser:** One bid was received from Grace Quality Used Cars from Morrisville, PA. **Motion:** To award the bid for the sale of the 1999 Crown Victoria Police Cruiser to Grace Quality Use Cars of Morrisville, Pa for \$1684.00. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.
- **Discontinuance of Frisbie Road:** Lindsey Gruson explained his request for discontinuance of a portion of Frisbie Road and his preference that it be discontinued for all general uses. Roxbury has abandoned their portion and there is no evidence of there ever being a road - there is no passive recreation allowed on the Roxbury section. Lindsey explained that the portion he would like discontinued or abandoned runs within 10 feet of his front door and therefore if passive recreation on Washington's portion is maintained it brings people **very** close to his house. In addition, if people do go down the road by the house, there is nowhere to go after 300 feet, and there is no place for parking. He sees no advantage therefore in maintaining passive recreational rights. He feels that the Planning Commissions approval of his request to discontinue with maintaining recreational use was just a point of principal. Lindsey also mentioned he eventually would like to give conservation easements to Steep Rock. There was then discussion as to the pole # that the discontinuance would run to- it was agreed pole # 444 - this would not involve other property owners. A survey should be done showing the new property lines should the portion of Frisbie Road be discontinued. Nick Solley voiced his opinion that this is a good candidate for abandonment with no rights retained. Mark Lyon voiced his concern that space for Town

trucks to turn around be clarified so there is no question in the future. All Selectmen agreed there was no reason to retain recreational use in this case. After the survey is done, new description of property line is completed, the turn around is clarified; the Selectmen will bring the issue to a Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Extending Invitations to Bid for painting and roof replacement at the Senior Center/Legion Hall building: Motion:** To extend two Invitations to Bid for the exterior painting and the roof replacement of the Senior Center/Legion Hall roof located at 6 Bryan Plaza, Washington Depot until 4:00p.m. on March 9, 2006. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Local Health District Resolution: Resolved** that the Board of Selectmen empower Richard C. Sears, and in his absence Nicholas N. Solley, to sign contracts and any of it's amendments hereto, on behalf of the Town, between the Town and the Department of Health successor agency, in order to investigate the feasibility of forming a Local Health District with the Towns of New Milford, New Fairfield and Sherman. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Dick Sears explained the State is offering incentives for the Town to join a Health District as in the future the legislature will be mandating that each Town have a full-time Health Director. This can be established by joining a Health District as opposed to the current arrangement we now have with the Town of New Milford. The State is offering to pay for up front costs associated with investigating the formation of a Health District. Currently we are investigating joining with New Milford, New Fairfield and Sherman. Chris Charles suggested the Town of Washington also look into benefits of joining other districts - i.e. Torrington or Pomperaug. Chris also suggested speaking with engineers and installers who work with the different districts. Dick assured Chris this would be done. Passage of the resolution was unanimous.

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

Adjournment: Motion: To reenter the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:06 and to adjourn as there was no further business to discuss. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary