

October 19, 2006

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

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

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:33p.m.

Motion: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Mark explained this would have to do with the use of Town letterhead to report the October 28th forum. The motion unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 5, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the October 12, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Dick Sears welcomed all visitors and asked if anyone would like to speak at this point in the meeting.

Valerie Andersen read an email she had sent to Dick Sears requesting a motion be placed on today's meeting agenda "asking the First Selectman not to use Town stationary/letterhead nor to characterize himself as a representative of the Town of Washington when reporting the results of the October 28th meeting of We the People in their resolution to impeach President Bush."

Rebecca Ransom, reporter for the Litchfield County Times, asked that the record note that First Selectman Sears had been misrepresented by a headline in the Litchfield County Times last week. She stated that he did *not* promise to write a letter requesting impeachment of the President but rather would write a letter "recording" the sentiment of the October 28th forum.

Communications: None. **Appointments/Resignations:** None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Awarding of Bid for the Mobile Water Supply Fire Apparatus: Dick Sears read a letter from Duncan Woodruff, Chairman of the Truck Committee of the Washington Volunteer Fire Department. **Motion:** To accept the recommendation of the Truck Committee to award the bid for the Mobile Water Supply Fire Apparatus to Gowans and Knight for \$182,640.00. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Opening of Bid for snowplow: The following bid was received for an 11' Everest power angle snowplow:

W.H. Rose, Inc. Watertown, CT \$7333.00(optional trade in) (\$1800.00)

The bid will be awarded at the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 26, 2006.

NEW BUSINESS:

Housing Commission request: Dick explained that the Housing Commission has requested funding

from the Housing Fund for a mailing. **Motion:** To approve expenditure not to exceed \$1000.00 from the Affordable Housing Fund to pay for printing and postage of the Senior Housing survey. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Proclamation-American Red Cross: The American Red Cross of Western Connecticut is celebrating 100 years of service on Thursday, October 26, 2006. The Town of Washington has written a Proclamation commemorating this event, signed by the Board of Selectmen. Dick read this for the public and conveyed congratulations.

Poster Contest: Dick explained that the Town is hosting, along with parents, a poster contest to encourage drivers to slow down. Information has been distributed to area schools inviting all Washington children and students to participate. An award reception will take place at the Gunn Junior Library on November 30, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. Posters will remain on display until December 8th.

Use of Town Letterhead to report on the October 28th Forum: Motion: Not to have the First Selectman use Town of Washington letterhead, or to represent the Town of Washington, when reporting the October 28, 2006 forum regarding the impeachment of the President. By Mark Lyon seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Mark Lyon stated he was making this motion as he feels there is a need for clarification for the townspeople who have spoken with him about the forum - it's format, how it pertains to the Town and their request not to have a reporting of the forum on Town letterhead. Dick Sears stated he was sorry that some feel a letter from the First Selectman represents the entire Town. There have been articles misrepresenting his position (which have been corrected and clarified). In his mind, what he does on this matter does not represent the Town. He has taken lead from other First Selectmen who have been in similar situations, and he made it clear that in his letter he will be very specific in stating it does not represent the Town of Washington as a whole. Valerie Andersen stated she had asked for a motion to be on the agenda regarding the use of letterhead and was concerned that it did not appear. She stated that her issue has nothing to do with freedom of speech, etc. but is concerned about the precedent of asking the First Selectman to express/report the outcome of any meeting. No one, in her opinion, is against the meeting, the discussion or the debate -just the method of reporting it to the appropriate offices. Don Brigham also expressed his concern about using Town letterhead. Janet Wildman raised her objections as well - two petitions calling for special Town meetings have been defeated and that should take it out of the "town's realm". Ken Cornet was very concerned and stated he felt the Republican party of Washington was trying to suppress this meeting. Bobbie Carey agreed with the expression of opinions and views but felt they should not be expressed as opinions of the Town. Duncan Woodruff compared the request of impeaching the President to the Viet Nam era and the troops feeling the lack of support and would not want to see this Town be a part of any action that would not support our troops in this current war. A vote on the motion was called -Mark Lyon voted in favor of the motion, Dick Sears and Nick Solley voted against it. Therefore, the motion not to use Town letterhead failed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 5:10p.m. to enter into Executive Session. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen adjourned Executive Session and re-entered the Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Adjournment: To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:40p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted, .

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary