

• **May 5, 2005**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, Harry H. Wyant.

Public: Mark Lyon, Jack Boyer

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 28, 2005 Emergency Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda for today's meeting. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Jack Boyer** attended today's meeting as requested by the Democratic Town Committee to ask the Board of Selectmen to consider placing on the October Town Meeting Agenda a resolution that would **extend the terms of office of selectmen, treasurer and tax collector to four years**. If the Town was in favor of this, it would go to a vote and not take effect until after the November '05 elections. It is Jack's understanding that the Republican Town Committee has also voiced their support for this. Jack also asked that the Board of Selectmen to consider preparing a resolution that would put the Town of Washington on record as requesting **therepeal of Section 215 of the Patriot's Act**. Jack explained that this section would, in his opinion, detrimentally effect libraries and book stores and their patrons. Ms. Keilty, owner of the Hickory Stick Book Store has done quite a bit of research on this (some of this info was given to the Selectmen today). Jack felt this was something that should come before the townspeople at a Town Meeting for discussion. The Selectmen thanked Jack for his information and request and advised they would discuss the matter further later in today's meeting.

Communications:

- **Darcy Campbell of Christian Street** has written a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding speeding on Christian Street particularly in the area of the Meeker Swamp/Steep Rock area. Her concern is magnified by the fact that Steep Rock is doing quite a bit of work on the old farm house, improving the parking area for hikers, etc. and this will bring even more vehicles to the road. Her letter makes several suggestions (changing the access from Route 202, speed bumps). Dick Sears explained he has contacted the Department of Transportation to discuss the matter and has also replied to Ms. Campbell's letter. He will continue to follow up on the request.
- **Phillip Manno and Jim Fontaine of Slaughterhouse Road** have written a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting the Town sell a piece of property to them that is approximately a 50' x 50' square enclosed by rocks that is surrounded by their property. (May have been a holding area for the animals when the slaughterhouse was in business.) Discussion followed resulting in a feeling that the Town would most likely never have a use for this piece, but felt some research should be done into a proper and reasonable cost. Mr. Manno and Mr. Fontaine have offered to pay for closing costs. **Motion:** To begin the process of recommending to the Planning Commission the consideration of the sale by the Town of this

piece of property. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **REMINDER:** The Board of Selectmen will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 4:00p.m. to award the bid for technical services to prepare a Small Cities Community Development Program Application.
- **Zoning Regulation revisions as relating to Lake Waramaug** were discussed and studied by the Board. They reviewed the proposed changes/additions made by the Zoning Commission as well as comments and suggestions made by NWCOG and Tom McGowan of the Lake Waramaug Task Force. The Selectmen felt comfortable with the documents particularly as they related to the Lake and new boat ramp area. A note to this effect will be sent to the Zoning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Motion: To extend an invitation to bid for the drainage and paving project in New Preston, pending DECD approval of the project.** By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **The NW CT/Litchfield Hills Public Safety Task Force** has requested the Town's support for the spending plan developed by the Task Force for the use of the FY 2004 Homeland Security grant funds. This plan has been reviewed and discussed at previous Selectmen's meetings. The spending plan calls for 22% of the FY 2004 Homeland Security grant to be allocated to regional projects, with the remaining 78% available for municipal projects. In order to release the grant funds for the priority regional projects, the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has requested that municipalities in the MWCCOG and LHCEO regions indicate their support by signing an authorizing resolution. **Motion:** To support the Task Force's spending plan as indicated above by signing the prepared resolution Pertaining to the Use of FY 2004 Homeland Security Funds for Regional Projects. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Board of Education elections** - Jack Field has emailed Dick Sears requesting that the issue of placing the Board of Ed elections in the municipal elections in November be re-addressed. (This had been discussed previously with Don Brigham and at the last BOS meeting [at Don's suggestion] it was determined that there did not seem to be a strong enough desire or reason to change). There was some discussion at today's meeting as to: the pros and cons of changing, when would the terms of office begin, would the other Town's in Region also have to change, etc. Discussion will continue on the subject. Mr. Sears recommended that advocates of the idea continue to pursue the subject.
- **Housing Diversity Committee**, through Chairman, Bill Fairbairn, has recommended that a Housing Commission be established with 5 members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. This would be the Town commission that would be the public entity responsible for the Town's "accountability" in the affordable housing issue. Monies are approved in the Town budget for affordable housing and this commission could be involved in the spending decisions of this money. A "Housing Commission" draft is available on the website and in the Town Clerk's and Selectmen's offices.
- **Setting of the Agenda for the Annual Town Budget Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2005.** Prior to setting the agenda, the Selectmen further discussed Mr. Boyer's request regarding the Town's discussion of Section 215 of the Patriot's Act. The consensus of opinion was as there was not enough information known at the present time, and Jack would not be able to attend the meeting to present information and

answer questions, this should be postponed until a later date and that the proper approach may be to have an informational meeting to introduce the subject. **Motion: To set the Agenda for the Annual Town Budget Meeting, May 19, 2005 as follows:**

- 1. To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.**
- 2. To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.**
- 3. To discuss and consider the establishment of a Housing Commission.**
- 4. To discuss and consider a permanent tax abatement for Washington Community Housing Trust's property at 16 Church Street, New Preston.**
- 5. To elect representatives to the Shepaug Valley Region #12 Board of Education.**

By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10p.m. to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Call to Order: The Board of Selectmen re-entered their Regular Meeting at 6:25p.m. from Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:25p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary