

• **July 14, 2005**

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

Public: Victoria Cherniske, Judge of Probate; Henry Martin, Chairman Zoning Commission

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

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 30, 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 June 23, 2005 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen (Region #12 elementary school discussion) revisions. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Henry Martin:** Mr. Martin came to inform the Board of Selectmen that at the June 27, 2005 Zoning Commission meeting, the Supreme Court Decision regarding eminent domain on a New London, CT case was discussed. The Commissioners feel the decision is a threat to private property owners as it allows for private property to be taken by private developers if the resulting project would yield more property tax revenue. The commissioners authorized Hank to come to the Board of Selectmen with the goal of coming up with an action that would protect private property owners. He presented a proposed ordinance that would limit the Supreme Court's decision within the Town of Washington. The Selectmen asked to have time to review the proposed ordinance. Hank asked that the minutes reflect the support of Dick Sears in conversation about this subject.

Communications:

- Dick Sears reported he had received an email from Susan Payne regarding maintenance of the **Greenways**. Dick will speak with Roger Cannavaro, Road Foreman, regarding what duties - if any - the Highway Department may be able to fulfill.
- A letter has been received from **Mr. & Mrs. Morniere** regarding concerns with the proposed **Mygatt Road project** and its effect on water and drainage on to **Wheaton Road**.
- A letter has been received from **Mr. Brunhuber** asking the Selectmen to consider the use of millings on **West Church Hill Road** for surfacing and to clear intersections for better site lines.
- A letter has been received from **Brodies** also noting concerns about construction on Mygatt Road.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Historic District Commission:** Dick Sears explained he has been notified by Paul Graney that he will be resigning from the Historic District Commission, effective July 19, 2005 because he will be moving from Town. The Board of Selectmen accepts - with regret - this resignation. **Motion:** To appoint Peter Arturi as a regular member of the Historic District Commission to fulfill the term vacated by Paul Graney. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Region #12 Primary Schools:** Dick reported that the leaders and officials of the three Towns in Region #12 have met twice to discuss the future of the primary schools.
- **Birch Hill Run:** Dick reported he will be meeting with Peter Pappas of Birch Hill Run next week to further discuss the Town's taking over the road
- **Buildings and Property Manager:** The Board of Selectmen will be meeting with a candidate for this position in an Executive Session following this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Land Use Fees:** The Selectmen have asked the Town's Land Use commissions to review their fee schedules.
- **Street Lighting Review:** Dick reported he will be meeting with a company next week that will to an audit to see if any overcharges over the past several years have occurred in relation to street lighting within in the Town. There is no fee if no errors are found. If there are errors, this company will charge a percentage of the resulting savings to the Town.
- **Water Company (R.J. Black Co., Inc.):** Dick reported that R.J. Black would like to sell the Judea Water Company. Dick and Michael Jackson have met with Mr. Black and the Board of Finance will review.
- **Probate Court Update:** Dick reviewed the movement to consolidate the smaller courts in the State. Town of Washington has been approached by Litchfield to join with them and several other towns. **Victoria Cherniske, Judge of Probate**, shared concerns about losing the local courts. The Board of Selectmen will invite the Probate Administrator to come for discussion, with Victoria attending, for the purpose of gathering facts - pros/cons - financial concerns vs. service to the people etc.
- **Nettleton Hollow Road Engineering:** Lenard Engineering has been in contact with the Selectmen and has lowered their fee for engineering Sprain Brook culvert by approximately \$9,000. Further costs of the project will be discussed in the near future. **Motion:** To accept the proposal from Lenard Engineering for engineering services in regard to rebuilding Sprain Brook culvert on Nettleton Hollow Road per their agreement dated July 12, 2005 with the provision that the 10% reduction in fees be clarified. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:20p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss the position of Buildings and Property Manager with a possible candidate. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved. The Executive Session was adjourned at 6:00p.m. to re-enter the Regular Meeting.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:00p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary