

## • **September 22, 2005**

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

Visitors: Valerie Andersen

Press: Dan D'Ambrosio

**Call to Order:** Dick Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

**Motion:** To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

### **Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 8, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Solley, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

### **Appointments and Resignations:**

- **Resignation:** A letter of resignation from **Frederick Byerly** from the Planning Commission has been received. **Motion:** To accept, with regret, the resignation of Frederick Byerly from the Planning Commission and to have the minutes reflect that he has served the Town well and faithfully for many years. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **Appointment: Motion:** To appoint Paul Frank as a regular member (from an alternate member) of the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Byerly's resignation. This appointment will continue until 12-31-06. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Land Use Fees: Motion:** To place on the October 3, 2005 Town Meeting Agenda an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing Land Use Fees that would increase zoning permit fees from \$25 to \$45 for projects 500 square feet and under and from \$25 to \$90 for projects over 500 square feet; applications to Change Zoning Maps from \$175 to \$200 and zoning fees for signs shall be \$25. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Transfer Station Fees: Motion:** To place on the October 3, 2005 Town Meeting Agenda an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing Transfer Station Fees that would increase the charge for refrigerators and deep freeze units from \$40 to \$50, commercial refrigerators from \$50 to \$60, air conditioners from \$40 to \$50 and dehumidifiers from \$20 to \$50. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **Hiring Policy:** The Selectmen have reviewed the present policy and made minor changes to the policy that would apply to new employee hires.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Employee Compensation Task Force:** Dick Sears reported he has spoken with the Board of Finance

regarding researching how the Town of Washington compares to other municipalities and work forces in regard to wages, benefits, etc. A task force of 5-6 people will be appointed by the next selectmen's meeting.

• **October 3, 2005 Town Meeting Agenda: Motion:** To set the agenda for the October Annual Town Meeting as follows:

- To set the dates for the annual town budget hearing and meeting in May of 2006.
- To approve an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing Fees for the Land Use Commissions.
- To approve an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing Fees for the Transfer Station.
- To discuss and consider, for a vote on the June 2006 Referendum, a resolution amending the Town Ordinances to provide for four year terms of office for the offices of First Selectman, members of the Board of Selectmen, Tax Collector and Treasurer, commencing with the next regular election after this ordinance is adopted.
- To establish an Ordinance authorizing tax exemption for farm machinery and farm buildings.

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

**Visitors:**

• **Valerie Andersen** asked about the Executive Session that the Board of Selectmen were about to enter - was it dealing with the Moore property? Dick Sears said it was not. She also asked about the Board of Selectmen publicly supporting or not supporting items prior to putting on the Town Meeting Agenda (i.e. Farm machinery/building exemption). It was explained it was not necessary to have the Selectmen endorse a subject but at times they do. Valerie also asked about the extension of terms item on the agenda - did the Selectmen have communication from the Democratic and Republican Town Committees supporting it? Dick expressed his understanding that both committees had considered the issue and that they wanted the issue to be decided by the residents of the Town at a referendum vote. Valerie suggested that the committees be informed of the vote to be taken. Dick thanked Valerie for her suggestion and will get the information out to the committees.

**Adjournment: Motion:** To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 4:57p.m. to enter into Executive Session. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

**Re-entered the Regular Meeting:** 5:09p.m.

**Motion:** To spend \$4322.32 out of the Open Space Acquisition Fund for expenses related to the consideration of a purchase of a parcel of land. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment: Motion:** To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 5:10p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary