

• **December 1, 2005**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectman Mark E. Lyon

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES

Public: Valerie Andersen, Chris Charles

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 16, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- Dick Sears welcomed **Ann Compton** as the new reporter from "Voices".
- **Valerie Andersen:** see below under "Communications".

Communications:

- **Letter from Valerie Andersen, Valerie Friedman, Rex Swain:** Dick Sears read the letter which was received on November 30, 2005. Those who signed were concerned about the Intermunicipal Agreement which was voted on at a Washington Town Meeting on November 15, 2005. The wording of the Agreement as voted on was approved by the Board of Finance. At a School Options Steering Committee meeting, a second agreement with slightly different writing, was signed by the First Selectmen of each Town. Valerie, Valerie and Rex are requesting that the "Washington Town attorney review this matter and issue an opinion letter as to whether this agreement can stand as altered, despite the vote of the majority, or an amendment to the original agreement be placed on the agenda for another vote." Dick Sears explained the history of this issue which has to do the Region's elementary school facilities - their need for renovation or consolidation. A Steering Committee was formed consisting of the three First Selectmen, Chairmen of the Boards of Finance and Region #12 administrators. The Towns agreed to pay for work to get to a referendum which would give the voters a chance to decide on retaining local schools or building a consolidated school. Once this first referendum is completed, Region #12 would take charge and the Intermunicipal Agreement would be voided. The problem has arisen in that Roxbury and Bridgewater's Agreement is slightly different from Washington's. This difference involving the breakdown of payment - by school population formula which our Board of Finance was not in agreement with. Therefore, an "amendment" was signed which included a sentence that Washington had originally deleted. Dick further explained he fully agrees with the writers of the above mentioned letter and will definitely seek legal council. Mark Lyon also suggested that our attorney be consulted on whether or not the Intermunicipal Agreement ends with the first referendum. If "yes", the whole question as to the wording may be a mute point. Valerie Andersen stressed the point that time is of the essence in receiving this legal opinion. The process should not be held up and presently there is no agreement in effect. If the amendment is legal - fine; if not there should be another vote as soon as possible. Dick assured those present that he would send a letter to David Miles tomorrow and he would notify Valerie of what he is advised. Valerie also asked that the Board of Selectmen pursue the "combined" alternative (Roxbury & Bridgewater together and Washington renovate). She also mentioned a special Board of Ed meeting on December 12th at which ed specs and square footage proposals by SLAM will be discussed. **Chris Charles** stressed the point that the cost of operating individual schools vs. a consolidated school should

be a part of discussions as well as the costs incurred with buildings that may be left vacant. Dick explained this subject has been considered and brought up at most meetings. He thanked Chris for his work on engineering and conservation matters.

- **Letter from Verizon Wireless:** Dick Sears read a letter received from Verizon which states that the New Preston Firehouse property has been identified as a possible suitable site for a telecommunications facility. The letter further offers a rent suggestion of \$21,600 per year to the Town plus 30% of the collocation fee collected by Verizon from each additional carrier that goes on the tower. There would be a 15% escalator per term. The initial term would be five years with five, five year options. Those present at today's meeting felt that the above mentioned terms may be and should be negotiable to benefit the Town more. After discussion it was decided that representatives from Verizon would be invited to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. More information could be gained at that time which hopefully would also include what the tower would look like, radio waves emitted, etc. Before any final agreement would be reached, the Board of Selectmen would have to refer the matter to Planning and a final vote by the people at a Town Meeting. Valerie suggested also considering the Town's possible need for the space in the future.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Mark Lyon from the Board of Finance:** A letter has been received from Mark (following his election to the Board of Selectmen) resigning from the Board of Finance, effective immediately. The letter is hereby acknowledged with gratitude for the work Mark has done on that Board. The Board of Finance will themselves appoint someone to fill the vacancy.
- **Appointment of Lisabeth Adams to the Housing Commission:** Dick notified the Board of Selectmen that "Liddy" has accepted to serve on this newly formed commission. She has experience serving on the Washington Community Housing Commission, the First Congregational Church's Ellsworth apartments and is a long time resident. **Motion:** To appoint Lisabeth D. Adams to the Housing Commission with a term to expire 1-1-08. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Discontinuance of a portion of Frisbie Road:** Lynsey Gruson has done research and found that when Roxbury discontinued their portion of Frisbie Rd they gave up full rights. Mr. Gruson is requesting that the Washington portion be discontinued from the Roxbury line to a point yet to be determined (on the Gruson property). The Board of Selectmen has no objection to this, has referred it to the Road Discontinuance Committee who has no objection. The Board of Selectmen will now refer to the Planning Commission who will also look into technical matters such as the potential for other lots being built on, abutting property owners, etc. **Motion:** To recommend the discontinuance (and termination of the public right of way for all purposes) of a portion of Frisbie Road from the Roxbury town line to a point to be determined on the Gruson/Whitney property to the Planning Commission for their consideration, asking them to pay particular attention to abutting property owners, further lot development, etc. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2006 Employee Holiday Schedule: Motion:** To approve the following Holiday Schedule for 2006: January 2, January 16, February 20, April 14, May 29, July 4, September 4, October 9, November 10, November 23 & 24, December 25. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.
- **Code of Ethics:** Dick distributed a hand out for review and study of a Code of Ethics for

municipalities. This is as the result of work by NWCOG. To be discussed at a later date.

- **Public Works Garage expansion:** Dick reported this has been approved by Zoning and work will be done with a \$150,000 STEAP grant.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:21p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary