

September 12, 2013

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Richard O. Carey.

Press: Loumarie Rodriguez – VOICES.

Public: Nick Solley.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m. noting that Selectman Anthony J. Bedini was driving to Colorado and would be returning in two weeks.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the August 29, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the September 4, 2013 and September 5, 2013 Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* AT&T No Texting While Driving Day:

AT&T has asked the Town for its endorsement of proclaiming September 19, 2013 as No Texting While Driving Day.

Motion:

To endorse the following Proclamation:

Whereas texting has become the way many people communicate today, which means some people are doing it at the worst possible time – while driving, and

Whereas texting while driving is involved in over 100,000 motor vehicle crashes each year, often causing injuries and deaths, and

Whereas those who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in some type of safety critical event as compared to those drivers who don't text while they drive, and

Whereas in 2009 AT&T launched the public awareness campaign "It Can Wait" to educate the public about the dangers of texting while driving by encouraging consumers to take the personal pledge not to text while driving, and

Now, therefore be it proclaimed, that the Town of Washington designates September 19, 2013 as "No Texting While Driving Day" to focus attention on the dangers of texting while driving, and

Be it further proclaimed that the members of the Board of Selectmen have taken the personal pledge to not text and drive, and support efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers of texting while driving and encourage others to take the pledge not to text and drive.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion:

The Selectmen stressed the importance of endorsing the no texting while driving every day!

The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Appointment of Stephen Wadelton as "Veterans' Service Contact Person":

This new appointment, mandated by the State of Connecticut, was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Stephen Wadelton, a resident of Washington, has volunteered for this position. He is a retired serviceman, a member of the American Legion and very interested in the benefits veterans are entitled to.

Motion:

To appoint Stephen Wadelton as Veterans Service Contact Person for the Town of Washington.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Calhoun Street paving is just about completed – some driveway aprons and curbing to be done next week.

* West Church Hill Road will have some drainage work done.

* Board of Education meeting Monday 9/16/13 will discuss with the Region's First Selectmen and Board of Finance Chairmen their rationale in coming to the decision they did in regard to consolidation.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Change to Town's Pension Program:

Motion:

To endorse, as the Board of Selectmen, the change in the Town's Pension Program from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan as of January 1, 2014.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion:

The Selectmen received information on this proposed change at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. Current employees will continue in the old plan. Any new employees, after June 30, 2013 will be enrolled in the new plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

* September 26, 2013 meeting of the Board of Selectmen:

As there will not be a quorum for the September 26, 2013 meeting, the Selectmen discussed the options of changing the date or cancelling that meeting. Motion: To cancel the September 26, 2013 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

* West Church Hill Road questions:

Dick Carey explained that he had been approached by a resident of West Church Hill Road inquiring about designating the portion from Lower Church Hill Road to Fenn Hill as a Scenic Road and if No Thru Truck signs could be installed on that section. Dick explained to her that she should contact the Planning Commission for the scenic road designation procedure and application. Mark Lyon explained that, at times, the scenic road designation hampers the work of the Highway Department when it comes to drainage and repairs. Currently drainage work is being performed on the section of West Church Hill Road being discussed. More work will most likely be required and this could be inhibited if it were to become a scenic road. The truck issues are most likely a result of the work being performed and not a recurring problem. The Selectmen continued to discuss the criteria of scenic road designation and the economics of maintaining the Town's dirt roads - \$150,000 - \$200,000 annually.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Dick Carey, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary