**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**January 28, 2016**

***Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.***

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen David Werkhoven and Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Leslie Anderson, Ralph Averill, Nick Solley, Wayne Hileman.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:**

* **Appointment of John Horan to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** At the suggestion of Polly Roberts, ZBA Chairman, Mr. Horan has submitted a letter of interest and has met with First Selectman Mark Lyon. He is now a full-time resident of the Washington. **Motion:** To appoint John Horan, Democrat, as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals until the municipal election in November 2017. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
* **Appointment of Patrick McCormack to Inland Wetlands Commission:** Mr. McCormack has expressed interest in serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission several times. He has met with Mark Lyon and Tony Bedini, Inland Wetlands Chairman and has submitted a “resume”. **Motion:** To appoint Patrick McCormack, Republican, to the Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/17. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**First Selectman’s Report:** First Selectman Mark Lyon reported the following:

* **TBNG Contract** has been signed for the Town Hall internet upgrades.
* **Highway Department** has been able to get some tree work done due to the mild winter we have had to date.
* **Eversource** representatives have met with Mark Lyon to discuss the possibility of the Town purchasing some of its streetlights. In doing this, the Town would take over maintenance of the lights and would no longer pay rental fees. Mark has spoken with Torrington, which has taken advantage of this program, and they have reported saving significant amounts of money. The first step would be to take an inventory of the Town’s streetlights and determine if all are needed and, if not, which ones should be kept. Those that are not kept would be discontinued prior to any purchases. Once purchased, the Town would work with Eversource to replace the bulbs with LEDs. Mark will ask the Police Department and a representative of the Conservation Commission to work with him on the inventory.
* **Reception for Susan Wallace-Wyant** will be held tomorrow evening, January 29th, at the Gunn Library at 5:30 p.m. to honor “Susie” for her many years of service on the Washington Ambulance Association - as an EMT for 21 years, Chief for 11 years, and instructor of countless EMT courses. The Board of Selectmen will present Susie with a Proclamation to thank her for her service to the Town.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Opening of Bids for the design and engineering of a pipe and gate valve system for the dam at Lake Waramaug.** The following bids were received:

**Tate & Howard,** Marlborough, MA $48,500.

**Lenard Engineering,** Winsted, CT $38,500

Bids will be reviewed by the Buildings and Properties Commission along with the Lake Waramaug Task Force.

**Update on Economic Development Committee:** Mark Lyon reported Workshop #3 would be held this evening at 6:30 p.m. The Town has ended their contract with Goman and York. This evening’s meeting will center on the Committees goals and initiatives and best to accomplish them.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Request to hold a wedding at the Washington Town Beach:** The Selectmen’s Office received a request several weeks ago to hold a wedding at the Town Beach on September 16th. The request was forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission who, after speaking with the inquirer, were in agreement to approve of the request. Only the ceremony would be taking place at the Beach with approximately 40 people in attendance. No alcohol will be served. They referred back to the Selectmen for final approval. **Motion:** To approve the request to hold a wedding at the Town Beach on September 16th as outlined. A fee of $50 and a deposit of $100 will be charged and evidence of insurance will be required. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

* **Joan Lodsin** inquired about the State offering to sell a piece of property to the Town. Mark Lyon explained there was a 2,000 square foot piece of business property on New Milford Turnpike that had a driveway on it that was partially in the State’s right-of-way. The owner of the property offered to buy it from the State so that the driveway would be entirely on the businesses property. Before agreeing to the sale, the State is obligated to offer it to the Town. This was discussed at a Board of Selectmen’s meeting several months ago and the Selectmen agreed there was no benefit in the Town’s purchasing of this piece.
* **Ralph Averill** spoke of support of the Town’s purchasing of streetlights and converting to LEDs – explaining they have a long life, are easy to maintain and use less electricity. He reminded the Selectmen of Zoning regulations dealing with lighting (dark sky approved). He also “approved” of the light in front of his home to be eliminated.
* **Nick Solley** inquired if any requests had been made to the Selectmen to hold the Farmer’s Market on Town property, should it not be able to be held in its previous location of the old Texaco Station - now Judy Black Park. Mark explained that he has heard it may still be held at the Park, but should that not happen, he would be very much in support of holding it on Town property – possibly the Town Hall lawn. Others in attendance supported the Farmer’s Market continuing as it successfully attracted residents and visitors to the Depot.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary