**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**November 6, 2014**

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

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Tony Bedini, Nick Solley, Chris Charles, Carlos Canal, Margaret Minor.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014 Special Meeting and October 23, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **State of CT DOT Public Hearing:** November 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m. to discuss and review plans for replacing a culvert on Route 109 (Blackville Road) and Sabbaday Lane. The DOT will be contacting the property owner who has a barn that may need to be taken down due to the realignment of the road.
* **Plaza Project:** David Head of VHB (liaison for the Town and State DOT) has notified Mark Lyon that the engineering firm that was chosen has been accepted by the DOT. Once the formal letter is received, negotiations with the firm can begin regarding their pricing.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

* **Road Work:** Ives Road has been reclaimed and repaved. Kinney Hill Road (off Bee Brook) is having drainage and curb work. Hot patching will occur over the next couple of weeks to get ready for winter. The driveway/path to the new conference room (old Main Hall stage area) entrance will also be hot patched. Kevin Smith, Highway Director, will do a report of the work completed over the past year for the Selectmen.
* **Plan of Conservation and Development Public Hearing:** November 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m. The plan will be presented and there will be an opportunity for the Board of Selectmen and the public to ask questions and give comments. Following the hearing, the Plan will be submitted to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments who will review and ascertain of it meets the State mandates. It then comes back to the Board of Selectmen for acceptance. Dick Carey suggested the Board submit a letter of support. Jay Hubelbank inquired as to what the Board of Selectmen can do to assure that suggestions made in the Plan are implemented. Mark Lyon explained that the Plan is not “law” and not enforceable. However, Chairmen of the Commissions can be asked if they have or plan to follow-up on the suggestions made.
* **Storm issues:** Last Sunday’s high winds caused several power outages in Town. Mark Lyon and Rocky Tomlinson have been working with Frontier (formerly AT&T) and CL&P regarding their response times.
* **Litchfield Hills CHORE Service:** Service assists residents of Town with various chores: i.e. shopping, yard and house clean-up, etc. It has been struggling financially and is in the process of re-vamping its Board of Directors in the hope of generating funding.
* **Cell Tower:** Ready for AT&T to install their antennas. The underground conduit for power and phone lines is completed. Homeland Towers is still hoping for service to begin by the end of December or early January. Carlos Canal congratulated the work that has been done – especially the appearance.
* **Town Garage Update:** Contractor is still forecasting a completion by Thanksgiving. Inside work is now being performed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Calhoun Street:** As a follow-up to residents of Calhoun Street attending the October 23, 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Mark Lyon report that he has spoken with Kevin Smith, Highway Director, and Police Officer Patrick Kessler. Speed limit signs will be installed as well as “No Thru Trucks” signs. The electronic speed limit sign that tells drivers how fast they are going will also be installed for a period of time. This sign also records data that can be retrieved by the Police Department indicating speeds and the number of vehicles using the road. The Police Department will also be more present enforcing the speed limits. One of the larger construction jobs is nearly completed and the Orchard will be closing soon – hopefully resulting in less traffic.
* **Economic Development:** As a follow-up to the Washington Business Association’s Special Meeting October 23, 2014 with the Board of Selectmen, Jay Hubelbank inquired about the possibility of forming an Economic Development Task Force similar to what Roxbury and Bridgewater have. Mark Lyon explained he was not familiar with this but explained that Doug Parker of the Northwest Economic Development Committee, met with COG and explained the Northwest Planning Collaborative had just received a grant to work with several towns in NW Connecticut on establishing Economic Development Committees or an Economic Development Director. The towns that are not part of the grant (Washington being one) can take advantage of the findings. For the smaller towns, forming a regional committee makes more sense. Jay Hubelbank suggested that the Board of Selectmen keep the Business Association apprised of findings.
* **Technology Up-date:** Jay Hubelbank reported that the wiring for routers and a wireless network in the Town Hall has begun. John Irwin will start meeting with Town Hall employees to assess their training needs. Jay will follow-up and get more information re: the State’s offering of VOIP and fiber optics services.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**Visitors:**

* **Carlos Canal, Washington Environmental Council,** attended this evening’s meeting to discuss a proposed Ordinance “The Storage, Disposal or Use of Fracking Waste or Any Derivative Thereof in the Town of Washington, Connecticut”. Margaret Minor, Rivers Alliance, has attended conferences and she and the Conservation Commission have made several suggestions and made some changes in the original proposed draft. Carlos explained that the more towns pass such an ordinances, the more pressure is put on the State to pass State laws/regulations. Mark Lyon explained he has sent the draft ordinance to Town Attorney, David Miles, for his review and comments.
* **Tony Bedini** suggested the Public Hearing for the POCD be held in the Main Hall if possible to accommodate a larger number of people. He also inquired if a Washington sub-committee could be formed to attend regional Economic Development meetings. Mark Lyon offered to look into this.
* **Nick Solley** inquired about Mark Lyon and Rocky Tomlinson’s meetings with CL&P representatives regarding the slow response time and the coverage of the area by cub-contracted linemen. Mark explained they will be discussing how they feel the “Make it Safe Initiative” was not met.
* **Chris Charles** inquired about Region 12s developing an agricultural/science department. Mark Lyon will be attending a meeting tomorrow to learn more. The Board of Education has endorsed this plan. Tony Bedini explained that the State has offered a grant for an addition to the Shepaug School to house this additional educational offering. Nonewaug High School, which offers this type of program, turns away approximately 50 students a year.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 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