**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**December 30, 2014**

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

**Present:** First S3electman mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Tony Bedini, Nick Solley.

**Call to order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **Aquarion Water Company** notified the Town of Washington that from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, the water used in its schools, parks, offices and other facilities will cost 5.6 percent less. This is the result of a change in the way the Internal Revenue Service allows Aquarion to account for capital investments and a subsequent $29-million refund.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

* **Happy New Year** to Washington’s townspeople!
* **Congratulations and Best Wishes to Kathy Gollow and Phyllis Allen** on their retirement. Thank you to all who helped make their retirement party a huge success!
* **Audit update:** The Town’s auditor has reported that he is waiting for the final actuary report regarding the Town’s pension plan. Once that is received he will be able to complete the Town’s audit – hopefully in time for the January Board of Finance meeting.
* **Region #12 merger with Litchfield High School:** Mark Lyon has placed a call to Litchfield’s First Selectman but has not heard back. There has been “talk” of this possibility, as well as articles in the paper, but there is nothing official taking place.
* **Vo-Ag school addition to Shepaug:** Jay Hubelbank reported that Region #14 has sent correspondence to other school districts asking for their support of this project. Adding of the Vo-Ag to Shepaug would need to be approved by the State Board of Education and State legislature.
* **New personnel in First Selectman’s Office:** Jeff Hammond has been hired to take Phyllis Allen’s afternoon position as Selectmen’s Assistant. Town Treasurer Linda McGarr and former accounting consultant to the Town, Linda Kennedy Gomez, will share Kathy Gallows’ full-time position. Linda McGarr will work Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Linda Kennedy-Gomez Tuesday and Thursday. These new hires will officially begin Monday, January 5, 2015. Linda Kennedy Gomez has been working on a policy/procedure book for personnel in the Selectmen’s Office. This and a break-down of staff responsibility will be available to the Selectmen in the near future.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Summary of new Town Garage expenses:** Mark Lyon compiled a report of what was budgeted for construction of the new garage and expenses to-date. The garage is complete (except for some minor details that will be completed in the spring) and it is approximately $126,000 under budget. Dick Carey complemented PDS for the excellent job they have done in constructing the garage and in coming in under budget. Mark will do a similar report for the new conference room in the Main Hall and is expecting that all expenses will be covered by insurance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Resolution for settlement between BRRFOC and Covanta:** A settlement has been reached between BRRFOC which handled solid waste disposal for its member towns, and Covanta which had extended turbine generator outages at the trash to energy plant in Bristol. The settlement has been approved by BRRFOC, the Board of Directors and the newly formed Bristol Facility Policy Board, but also needs to be approved by the individual towns who now have their own contracts with Covanta. Discussion followed regarding the negotiations and amounts settled on. **Motion:** To approve the Resolution for a Settlement Agreement between BRRFOC, and the Policy Board and the Town of Washington with Covanta. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
* **Telephone Distribution Easement between Frontier Communications and the Town of Washington:** Although an Easement Agreement was in the original contract with Homeland Towers for construction of the cell tower on Blackville Road, AT&T/Frontier Communications has requested their own. Town Attorney David Miles has reviewed and made suggestions which were approved by Frontier. **Motion:** To approve the Easement Agreement between the Town of Washington and Frontier Communications to service the cell tower on Blackville Road. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey. Discussion: Mark Lyon explained the conduit for the utilities is already completed. Nick Solley inquired as to the grading and seeding of the trench in the spring. Mark will request that this is done. The motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER DISCUSSION:**

* **Cell tower update:** Jay Hubelbank inquired about who could be contacted to hasten the installation of AT&Ts antennas to get the tower up and running. Mark Lyon has asked Town Attorney David Miles to review the lease with Homeland Towers as to when they should begin paying the Town rent. He is hopeful that this may put pressure on Homeland to pressure AT&T.
* **Material storage area at Blackville Road Highway Department:** Processing of materials is taking place near the cell tower site. There is still material at the Titus Road site – some of which can be used for road work – some of which also needs to be processed before it can be used. There was discussion as to a time line for this to be done as well as moving materials to Blackville Road. The cost of processing is a major consideration in determining how long this will take. It will be discussed further when the Selectmen begin their budget meetings for next fiscal year.
* **The Light at the End of the Tunnel by Bill Bader:** Dick Carey highly recommends reading of this book by anyone interested in land use in the Depot.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:25p.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