**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**March 23, 2017**

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

**Present:** Selectmen David Werkhoven, Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Valerie Andersen.

**Call to Order:** Selectman Jay Hubelbank called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

**First Selectman’s Report:** Selectman Dave Werkhoven reported the following:

* **FOI Hearing:** Dave Werkhoven attended the FOI Hearing yesterday regarding the complaint brought against the Town by resident George Bartholomew. The Hearing Committee approved the dismissal of the case, noting the complaint was denied.
* **Kirby Road:** Dave requested that when repair work begins on Kirby Road and sidewalk, that the First Congregational Church be informed as they may need to do repairs to the sidewalk at the Woodruff House.
* **2017-2018 Budget Workshop:** The Selectmen will meet on Tuesday, March 28th to review budget figures for the next fiscal year and will be meet with the Board of Finance on Monday, April 3, 2017 to review budget figures and to meet with Ethan LaBella of the Fire Department to discuss equipment needs, etc. for future planning.
* **Special Town Meeting:** April 6, 2017, 7:30p.m. for Board of Education nominations.
* **Town Hall Clock:** John Gueniat met with a company that will provide options and estimates for repairing the clock in the Town Hall dome.
* **March 20th Board of Finance Meeting:** Dave thanked Board of Ed member, Valerie Andersen, for attending the Board of Finance meeting and her presentation addressing “claw back” questions.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Awarding of Bid for VOIP Phone System: Motion:** To award the bid for a complete VoIP Phone System to Ed Advance, Litchfield, CT for $16,362.50 contingent on approved funding in the 2017-2018 budget. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion: Frontier Communications also submitted a proposal for $29,932.45. Jay Hubelbank, Mark Lyon and John Gueniat met with representatives from both companies to discuss proposals, comparisons, etc. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Awarding of Bid for Telephone SIP Trunks: Motion:** To award the bid to Frontier Communications for a PRI option for $456.00 per month contingent on approved funding in the 2017-2018 budget. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**Visitors:**

* **Valerie Andersen** attended this evenings meeting and reported that the proposed Board of Education budget for next year represents a 0% increase. The Superintendent has presented this budget to the Board and there will be a Public Hearing March 27, 2017 to review and discuss further. Valerie also spoke about the enrollment in the Region’s three primary schools. Bridgewater has the lowest enrollment with only 3 students in the incoming 1st grade and 3 students in the incoming 3rd grade. There is a proposal to combine kindergarten through 2nd grade resulting in 20 students being in one “class” and combining third through fifth grade resulting in 19 students in one “class”. Two senior teachers would be responsible for each of these classes. If the number of teachers proposed is approved, it is ultimately the decision of the Principal as to how the classes will be configured. There is opposition in Bridgewater to this plan (wishing to maintain individual grades) despite the feeling of many that having classes with only 3 children is not in the best educational interest of the students. There has been discussion of sending Bridgewater’s 3 3rd grade students to Roxbury; however, this is not possible because of the contract establishing the Region. **Motion:** The Washington Board of Selectmen supports the proposed Board of Education’s budget with the suggested configuration of four teachers for Bridgewater’s primary school and one teacher per grade for Roxbury and Washington schools. The motion passed unanimously.

Valerie also discussed the AGSTEM budget that has already been approved by referendum. A vocal minority is calling for a second referendum. Valerie pointed out that almost 70% of the voters approved the referendum and the Board’s attorney has provided a legal opinion that a second referendum does not need to be held.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:08p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary