**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**June 30, 2016**

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

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Peter Talbot, Nick Solley.

**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 June 16, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

* **Chip sealing** is completed – loose stones are being swept up.
* **South Street** has been re-paved from Nichols Hill Road to town line.
* **CT Siting Council** has written that construction of the telecommunications tower on the Town’s Highway Department property (Blackville Road) is complete and has been accepted.
* **T-Mobile-s application** to be added to the Mountain Road tower has been rejected for insufficient information. They have until July 13, 2016 to reapply or to request an extension.
* **Homeland Towers/Insite Communications** continues efforts to get more providers on the Blackville Road tower.
* **Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut’s** block grant has been renewed therefore assuring Samantha Sommerer, Community Services Specialist, will continue office hours in Washington.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Discussion Region #12 – AGSTEM:** Mark Lyon referred to the May 23, 2016 letter to Superintendent of Schools, Patricia Consentino, from Melody A. Currey, Commissioner of State of CT, Department of Administrative Services, encouraging Region #12 to continue the design and development process for the AGSTEM program. The Region fell into a category of school districts which were not considered “shovel ready” and funding was delayed a year to allow the necessary time to develop construction documents. Region #12 was requested to write a letter indicating its desire to go forward with the project as submitted and to become “shovel ready” for funding next year. The Board has not yet acted on this due to the concern of a large amount of money being invested with no guarantee of reimbursement and/or funding. Following discussion, the Selectmen felt it would be beneficial to meet with the Washington representatives of the Board of Ed to discuss the future of the AGSTEM program; the increase,

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and projected future increases, in Washington’s share of the school budget; Board of Ed makeup based on number of students from each Town; and consideration of consolidation due to declining enrollment particularly in the Region’s primary schools.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**Visitors:**

* **Peter Talbot, President of Washington Art Association,** attended this evening’s meeting to discuss the request of WAA to have the Town grant an easement for the installation of an improved septic system in the back of the building on to Town-owned land. Currently, the system is located near the front of the building. With possible improvements and changes being made to Bryan Memorial Plaza, it seems unlikely it could be expanded. WAA is also considering adding to its building. Before moving ahead and spending funds on engineers and architects, Peter was asking for a feel if an easement is something the Town would consider. The Selectmen had not objection but could not give a final approval. They suggested the WAA ask Brian Neff for a feasibility study – indicating how much space would be needed etc. Once that information is received, and if the Selectmen continued to support the idea, a legal easement document would need to be drawn up and approved and then applications made to the various Land Use Commissions.
* **Nick Solley** asked for clarification on: 1) projected enrollment for the AGSTEM program from other school districts. Jay Hubelbank explained that when the program was in preliminary planning stages, various districts had “committed” numbers of students to attend Shepaug’s program. Lately, some have expressed the opinion these numbers may not be accurate and Shepaug may not get the number of students in the program that it would need to succeed. It is Jay’s feeling that the projected numbers are accurate and that other districts with AGSTEM programs cannot accommodate the number of students wishing to enroll; 2) repair of the sidewalk along Kirby Road on the Green – stating that he had been approached by some who feel it has gone into more disrepair due to the work the water company is doing on the Green. Mark Lyon explained that it has been budgeted to repair that section of sidewalk but work will wait until the water company has completed its repairs; 3) cleaning of catch basins – Mark explained that as part of the Equipment Coop, we will be renting the vacuum machine for a two week period.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Selectmen’s Secretary

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