**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**August 27, 2015**

***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: Joan Lodsin, Jesse Steinmetz.

**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 August 13, 2015 meeting of the Board of Selectmen by Dick Carey, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **Northwest Arts Council Thank you** for the Town’s assistance and support in the Studio Tour which had an excellent participation of artists and visitors.

**Appointments/Resignations:**

* **Appointment of a new Poet Laureate:** Jesse Steinmetz, the Town’s first Poet Laureate, and whose term expired June 30, 2015, developed an application process for his successor which was posted on various poetry websites and submitted to local newspapers through a press release. There was one applicant – Davyne Verstandig. Davyne has lived in Town for over 30 years and has a vast amount of experience in writing poetry, holding poetry reading and music events throughout New England and New York City. She has given workshops and organized fundraisers. Jesse recommended to the Selectmen that she be appointed and asked that they consider making her term two years. He is confident that she would continue to serve the Towns with words and music. **Motion:** To “appoint” Davyne Verstandig as Poet Laureate for the Town of Washington until June 30, 2017. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

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

* **Road Paving** is complete. Back-filling with topsoil and seeding on roads that were newly paved will be done when the weather is more conducive for new seeding.
* **New Preston Firehouse:** drainage improvements are completed and paving will be done when the contractor is available.
* **TPA** (Engineering firm hired for the Plaza Project) has completed their survey work and will be submitting a report for a kick-off meeting in the not-too-distant future.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **RFPs for Technology Services:** Jay Hubelbank reported that he has contacted the three companies that submitted RFPs as the yearly charge that was quoted in each varied greatly. Quality Data has not yet gotten back to Jay with answers to his questions. TBNG Consulting does work at the Gunnery and listed the school as a reference. Jay will follow through on this. Software Matters submitted a detailed summary of what they would provide however, the cost associated with this was considerably higher than others. Jay will be speaking with them again as well. He hopes to have a recommendation by the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen on September 10th.
* **Region #12 VoAg Presentation:** Jay Hubelbank reported he attended the presentation as did Mark Lyon. He felt the presentation was thorough and well-done and is hopeful that the funds needed to implement it will be more feasible by the time the question goes to referendum. Mark explained that the Region is planning on holding presentations in Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington. Cost appears to be the largest concern.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:57 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