**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**September 20, 2017**

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

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen David Werkhoven and Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Robert “Rocky” Tomlinson.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Appointment of Bruce Bennett as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments & Resignations:**

* **Motion:** To appoint Bruce P. Bennett as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission (moving up from an alternate) until 6/30/20. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: The Commission recommended this appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Tony Bedini. The motion passed unanimously.

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

* **Washington CT Online Notices:** Mark has used this new “email blast” system twice providing the Town with general information. Notices had been placed in the July tax bills, introducing this new system. By providing email addresses, residents will receive notices about such things as meetings, road closures, cancellations, Town events, etc. 623 addresses had been entered into the system – 587 were marked as “received”. Additional addresses have been received and will be entered into the system as well. Rocky Tomlinson indicated he had not received either of these emails nor was he notified as Emergency Coordinator of this new system and felt this was an indication of a lack of communication. Jay Hubelbank took objection to the statement that there was a lack of communication and explained that this was something completely separate from the Alert Now System that Rocky has managed and put into effect. Alert Now is used for notifying residents of “emergency” situations – storm damage, power outages, etc.
* **Plaza Project:** The project is in “full swing” and all appears to be going well. Currently the work being done is to install a new drainage system. Installation of new sidewalks and curbing will be next.
* **Walker Brook Road Bridge:** Final approval has been received from the State. Construction signage will be placed indicating detours, etc. The project is expected to be completed within 165 days – beginning September 1, 2017.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Awarding the bid for Ford F250 Pickup Truck: Motion:** To award the bid for a Ford F250 Pickup Truck to Litchfield Ford, Litchfield, CT for $30,590. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Low bid and funds have been budgeted. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Awarding the bid for Ford F550 Dump Truck: Motion:** To award the bid for a Ford F550 Dump Truck to Litchfield Ford, Litchfield, CT for $60,943. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion. Low bid and funds have been budgeted.
* **Further discussion of River Road easement:** Mark Lyon attended a Planning Commission meeting to discuss the easement of a piece of property on River Road. A potential buyer of the building which houses the Pizza Parlor has inquired about this as the restaurant’s septic system is under a Town-owned property. The Planning Commission suggested the Town consider selling this small piece of land – if even for $1. Following discussion, the Selectmen agreed to continue working on the easement with Town Attorney David Miles. The option to sell can be presented to the potential buyer at any point. Whether an easement or sale, the final decision needs to be approved at a Town Meeting.
* **Wykeham Property:** Jay Hubelbank inquired if anything could be done to force the owners of 101 Wykeham Road (the old Wykeham Rise property) to demolish the buildings left standing, in part, after the fire several months ago. He stated he has gotten several inquiries from concerned residents who consider the property to be a danger and an eye sore. Mark Lyon explained the Town does not have a “blight ordinance” and he has spoken with Building Official Bill Jenks who has indicated there is no legal way to force the owners to clean up the property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Setting the Agenda for the October 3, 2017 Town Meeting: Motion:** To set the Agenda for the October 3, 2017 Town meeting as follows:

1)To set the dates for the annual Town Budget Hearing and annual Town Budget Meeting in May 2018.

2)To adopt an ordinance ratifying the prior actions and amendments to the Town of Washington Volunteer Firefighters Award Program, as set forth in the “Amended and Restated Volunteer Firefighters Award Program”, executed September 11, 2013, and on file with the Town Clerk.

3)To adopt an ordinance ratifying the actions of the Board of Selectmen establishing a trust with Union Savings Bank, as set forth in a certain “Amended and Restated Trust Agreement Between the Town of Washington and the Town of Washington Volunteer Firefighters”, executed September 11, 2013, and on file with the Town Clerk. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Mark explained that items #2 & #3 are “housekeeping” matters – the Awards Program is administered by the Town’s Pension Committee. As it is not a true “pension”, a “trust” needs to be ratified and established. Rocky Tomlinson inquired of EMS personnel aren’t included in the Awards Program. Mark assured him they were (even though the title of the program refers to Firefighters only).

* **Renewal of the Lease for Pavilion Hall, New Preston: Motion:** To renew the lease between the Town and Plain Goods LLC for a portion of the Harry O. Erickson Pavilion in New Preston for the period October 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
* **Henna Stand at the Town Beach:** Elyse Sadtler attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on September 11th to request permission to have a Henna Stand at the Town Beach on 4 Saturdays. The Commission was willing to let her try 2 Saturdays to start but explained final approval needed to come from the Board of Selectmen. **Motion:** To disapprove the request of Elyse Sadtler to set up a Henna Stand at the Town Beach. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Mark Lyon. Discussion: the Board agreed that by approving a precedent could be set for other vendors to request permission to sell wares or services. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Change of time October 19th Board of Selectmen’s meeting:** **Motion:** To change the time of the Thursday, October 19, 2017 meeting of the Board of Selectmen from 5:30p.m. to 4:30p.m. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

* **Rocky Tomlinson** inquired about the current status of the Town’s Resident Trooper. Mark Lyon explained that Trooper Steven Sordi accepted an administrative position at Troop L. Trooper Gregory Kenney (son of the Town’s former Trooper Gregory Kenney) is the Town’s temporary trooper until Troop L posts the position. Rocky suggested that for economic reasons, this would be an appropriate time for the Town of Washington to consider “regionalizing” with another Town – perhaps Bethlehem. Rocky has also received inquiries about Barnes Road and the washouts and drainage issues created by a large construction project. He questioned whether or not proper permits were received from Land Use Commissions. Mark Lyon explained it was his impression the property owner had obtained the necessary permits. Highway Director, Kevin Smit, has also met with the engineer and retention and drainage plans have been given to Inland Wetlands.

Rocky inquired as to the status of changing the Town Clerks term from 4 years to 2 years for one election cycle. Mark explained this change would need to be approved at a Town Meeting and there was not enough lead time for this November’s election.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:22p.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