

• **January 10, 2008**

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton, and Richard C. Sears.

Press: Ann Compton - VOICES, Jack Corraggio - Litchfield County Times

Public: Ann Burton, Joanne Torti, Phil Markert, Tony Bedini, Jack Field, Valerie Friedman, Chris Charles, Eileen Smith.

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

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 27, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon. Discussion: Dick Sears asked if a letter had been received from Roger Bohan prior to his appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission. It was Dick's understanding that this was going to be required of candidates for the various commissions. Jim felt that if the Board of Selectmen becomes too stringent on this, another hurdle is created in the process and people may be less likely to serve. Mark agreed that having information to share with the public prior to an appointment is beneficial but felt it could be done by letter or phone call. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Nicholas N. Solley:** Mark read a letter received from Nick Solley requesting consideration of being appointed to the Building and Property Commission. **Motion:** To appoint Nicholas N. Solley to the Building and Property Commission until July 1, 2008. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

- **Resignation of David Showalter:** Mark explained he had heard from John Allen, Chairman of Building and Property Commission, that David Showalter informed him verbally he was resigning from this committee. **Motion:** To accept the resignation of David Showalter from the Building and Property Commission with sincere appreciation for his many years of service. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved. A vacancy now exists on this commission for the term that expires 7/1/10.

- **Other vacancies:** Mark notified the Board that he has written to Jane Boyer, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, regarding the vacancy on the Planning Commission and that information on the other commission vacancies have been passed on to her and to Janet Wildman, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already on today's agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears. Discussion: Mark explained this had to do with the Washington Volunteer Fire Department elections. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report:

- **School lease update:** Negotiations are ongoing on work for the primary school leases. There will be another meeting next week.

- **WPS Building Committee update:** The WPS Building Committee has met with the Regional

Building Committee. Plans have been turned over to CREC.

- **Road Discontinuance:** Mark reported that there are several roads in Town that are being discussed as possibly being discontinued. He has spoken with Nick Solley, of the Road Discontinuance Committee, who has informed him that they can make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen however; the Board can recommend discontinuance to the Planning Commission without involvement of the Road Discontinuance Committee. Dick Sears advised reviewing the process.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Use of Town Hall for Joyful Noise fundraiser:** Mark explained he had been contacted and visited by members of the Board of Joyful Noise/Chorus Angelicus - a chorus and musical group that would like to hold a fundraising auction at the Town Hall on May 31, 2008. The Town Hall regulations specify that it be to be rented by Washington individuals and/or organizations. Mark asked the Board of Selectmen for their input on this particular request. Although the organization is not based in Washington, it benefits Washington and numerous Washington children are members. This is a similar situation to other organizations that have rented the Town Hall. The Selectmen agreed to approve this request.
- **ASAP fundraiser:** Joanne Torti attended today's meeting to answer any questions the Board of Selectmen may have regarding their renting of the Town Hall on April 26, 2008 for a fundraiser. They are requesting the placement of a large tent in the back parking lot and have worked out a plan to accomplish this that would cause no damage. Discussion of permits, Fire Marshall approval, etc. took place. The Selectmen agreed to approve the request and gave approval for placement on the Thursday prior to the event to give time for the Fire Marshall inspection.
- **Formation of committee to explore possible future uses of WPS building:** Mark explained that if a consolidated school should be approved - even if in the future, a committee should be formed to investigate alternative uses for the primary school building. He feels this should be part of the consolidation plan. The building is a huge asset to the Town. Jack Field felt it beneficial to have a member of the Board of Selectmen on this committee as they have a view of the whole town. Other suggestions of members would be from the Planning Commission, someone with knowledge of FEMA, Parks & Rec, Housing. Mark asked that suggestions be made to him and/or interested people contact him directly.
- **Set Public Information Meeting date for Nettleton Hollow Bridge Project:** The meeting was set for February 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Land Use Room of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. The project's engineer will be present. The meeting is to provide information only. No vote will be taken.
- **Ex-budget appropriation for Probate Office computer:** The State Probate Court Judge has ordered that local judges and their clerks have separate offices for holding hearings, discussions of confidential matters etc. Moving our Judge to her own office will mean that another computer is needed and will have to be purchased through the State Probate office. **Motion:** To have the Board of Selectmen make a request to the Board of Finance for an ex-budget appropriation of \$1375.00 for the purchase of a computer for the Probate Office. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Phil Markert & Jack Field: Alternative Solutions for WPS:** The Board of Selectmen received a memo from Phil Markert dealing with configuration, size, and costs of building a new Washington Primary school building (perhaps on the Shepaug campus) vs. renovating the present building. A copy of

the memo is attached. General discussion with input from Phil, Jack Field, Tony Bedini, the Selectmen and visitors occurred.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary