

• **January 12, 2006**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley and Mark E. Lyon.

Visitors: Bob Papsin, Valerie Andersen, Kelly Boling, Chris Charles

Press: Ann Compton, VOICES

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:33p.m.

Minutes:

• **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 15, 2005 Special Meeting, the December 15 Regular Meeting and the December 29, 2005 Special Meet of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

• **Bob Papsin** asked if there was any further communication from Verizon regarding the **cell tower** on Route 202. Dick Sears explained that at this point a representative was hoping to attend the 1/26/06 Selectmen's Meeting. Nothing else has been received. Bob also asked if the Selectmen would look into the **lighting on Route 202** - both CL&P's lighting and the private business's lighting (Dowler's garage, Deli parking lot, etc.) Dick offered to follow up with CL&P and the Town's zoning commission re: the private businesses. Bob's third inquiry had to do with the debris that is behind the State sand/salt garage on Route 202 - very unsightly. Dick will follow up with DOT.

• **Kelly Boling** attended today's meeting to ask if the Myfield project on Mygatt Road would require obtaining an easement from the Town in order for a public utility (in this case water) to go over the Town's right-of-way. The Selectmen offered to investigate. Nick Solley voiced his opinion that even if it were necessary he did not feel it would be a problem.

• **Valerie Andersen** asked if it would be possible to add to the Town's January 18th meeting agenda the Intermunicipal Agreement that was discussed, voted on and subsequently amended at the Town Meeting several months ago. Valerie feels this is an important issue that needs to be settled. Dick Sears explained that the meeting on the 18th was not a Town Meeting but an informational meeting on the school issue. Valerie stated it was her understanding that the Agreement was to form an entity to study the project and a way to disperse the monies to pay for this project. The Town of Washington attorney has given an opinion that the agreement is not valid (because it differs from Roxbury's and Bridgewater's and because Washington's was changed after the vote at the Town Meeting). It was Valerie's understanding that in order for bills to get paid there needed to be this agreement. Dick explained that there would be a special appropriation of funds if necessary and assured Valerie and the public that Washington's share of the bill for the project study would be paid whether there is an agreement or not. It was further explained that at the Town Meeting two votes were taken: 1) on the passage of the Intermunicipal Agreement and 2) on paying the Town's portion. Both were passed by the vote taken at the meeting. Since the Agreement does not agree with the other two towns, that point is a mute one. Payment of the bill should not be a problem for Washington. Nick Solley felt that next week's informational meeting should be just that - let the public hear the information re: renovating the 3 primary schools vs. construction of one consolidated school - and not confuse the matter. Chris Charles voiced his agreement on this point. Mark Lyon felt that should

a problem with payment become apparent, we would need to address it as soon as possible with whatever legal means necessary.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Code of Ethics:** Dick Sears explained that he would like to continue working through and discuss the "draft" Code. If the Board of Selectmen feels it is something that the Town should adopt, it will then be passed along to the commissions for their comments and then to a Town Meeting for adoption. The Selectmen then went through the next few points which included: town employees serving on commissions that would relate to his/her employment; public officials or employees appearing on behalf of private individuals; use of town property. Equipment; accepting fees or honorariums; solicitations of anything of value, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Invitation to Bid for the Sale of 1999 Crown Victoria: Motion:** To extend an invitation to bid for the sale of a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria 4-door police vehicle. Bids will be received until 4:00p.m. on February 9, 2006. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Titus Road property:** Dick Sears said the Town is about ready to move ahead on the first stage of clearing up the old town garage property. The Town has the approvals and monies to do the "3rd stage/level" of new town garage property which will make it possible to move equipment that has been stored on Titus Road to Blackville Road. Dick has asked Nick Solley to be in charge of this and has asked Mark Lyon to be in charge of investigating where the piles of sand, stone, etc. can be moved to. Once equipment is removed, clean up along the river will be done for the townspeople to enjoy. Chris Charles suggested the Town make sure that any public safety issues are addressed, areas for public use clearly marked, etc.

- **Invitation to Bid for Engineering Services for Plumb Hill: Motion:** To extend an invitation to bid for the engineering of a drainage project on Plumb Hill Road in Washington. Work should be completed by May 1st. Bids will be received until 4:00p.m. on February 9, 2006. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

OTHER:

- **Chris Charles** asked that it be noted "for the record" that the Litchfield County Times reported inaccurately that the Planning Commission was holding a special meeting to discuss the Depot Study - a reporter was sent and then wrote an editorial regarding the poor turn out.

- **Mygatt Road reconstruction grant:** Dick Sears reported that a STEAP grant has been applied for reconstruction/drainage of Mygatt Road.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:42p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary