

# January 15, 2004

**Present:** First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nick Solley and Harry Wyant.  
Press: John Addyman, Voices  
Public: Frank Adams, Valerie Friedman, Chris Charles, Mark Lyon

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m.

**Minutes: Motion:** To accept the minutes of the December 30th Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented by Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

**Visitors: Frank Adams came** to discuss possible plans for the **Old Town Garage site**. He explained that there is a group of private citizens that is interested in contributing funds to build a recreational facility that would combine use by private "club members" and the public. Some of the tennis courts, for example, would be for use by the private paying members and the others would be open for use by the public. There would be no cost to the Town. The facility would include tennis courts, bocce courts, a pavilion that would include ping pong, etc. Picnic tables and grills would be placed by the river. The Town's Park and Recreation Commission could also use the area for programs. The area being discussed is approximately 4 acres and this would occupy 3. Mr. Adams feels it would give these private paying members an alternative place to play tennis and at the same time give something back to the Town. Dick Sears explained that there are a number of groups interested in this piece of property - both public and private. The recently approved Plan of Development recommends a "Depot Study" which would include this parcel. Dick further explained that this will take time - the Town needs to remove equipment, clean up, etc. He feels the area may be grassed over, give the public a chance to see the property - walk it, enjoy it and develop ideas for its use. He did stress the importance of everyone having the right to have their ideas presented and heard. He personally would like to be cautious in planning for the use as public space is very valuable. Frank Adams is going to the Planning Commission in February to present his idea. Nick Solley also suggested looking into Zoning regulations for such a plan. Mark Lyon asked how it would be divided between private and public and who would manage the facility. Frank explained many details need to be worked out. Nick Solley felt that the group should be aware of some possible hurdles. For example "selective use" on public property, the mixing of private and public really needs to be looked into. Mark Lyon also mentioned floodplain issues and DEP compliance. Dick Sears thanked Frank for his presentation.

**Communications:** Dick Sears received a letter from Richard Pugh, President of New Milford Hospital. They are proposing to add an additional service to the public for heart patients that would include angioplasty and catheterization procedures. Both of these are critical and response time extremely important. Currently patients need to go to Waterbury and/or Hartford Hospitals for this to be done. Dick has been asked to speak in favor of this at a public hearing and he has agreed to do so.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Police Vehicle Bid: Motion:** To award the bid for the purchase of a new police vehicle to Interstate Truck Center of Hartford, CT for \$23,492.00 by Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Resolution of Binding Arbitration:** Dick Sears explained the history of binding arbitration in Region #12. He, and several others who have brought this to his attention, feel that the original purposes are no longer served by the current process. Roxbury and Bridgewater's Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance as well as the Chairman of the Board of Education, will be invited to sign the resolution. This being said, **Motion:** To accept and sign the following resolution: "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Towns of Washington, Roxbury and Bridgewater, CT, urge our Representatives in the State Legislature to open debate on Binding Arbitration statutes, which will serve to educate the public on the process and the effects of Binding Arbitration, and provide a forum wherein a successful resolution can be reached to redress the present imbalance and to restore an equitable basis for negotiation of contracts between the Board of Education and the union." By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

**First Selectman comments:** Dick Sears commended the Washington Volunteer Fire Department for a job well done at the Fuchs fire on Turner Road this past Sunday evening. In the words of many, a "nice save!" Thank you.

Nick Solley would like the minutes to reflect congratulations to Mark Lyons for being reelected as Fire Chief of the Washington Volunteer Fire Department.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary