

January 22, 2009

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

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

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Letter from Henry Ferrence re: Painter Ridge Road: Mr. Ferrence has written to the Board of Selectmen to express his concerns regarding the resurfacing of Painter Ridge Road and specifically the impact on drainage. Mark explained that the project, that the Northwest Council of Governments has just put out to bid, is for reclaiming and repaving of the road. This is a project that is funded 80% by the State of Connecticut as part of the Rural Minor Connector Program. The remaining 20% of the cost was approved in the 2007-2008 budget. The Town Highway Department will be responsible for performing the drainage work. The Selectmen and Kevin Smith, Highway Director, will meet with Mr. Ferrence prior to any work to review and address his concerns.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

* Painter Ridge Road Reclamation Bid: NWCOG has extended an Invitation to bid due February 13, 2009.

* Revaluation: the company that performed the Revaluation has mailed the "Revaluation Notices of Assessment Changes". If residents have questions or do not agree, they can set up an appointment with the company by calling the number on the notice. If an agreement cannot be reached at this meeting, an appointment can be made with the Board of Assessment Appeals. Mark urged residents not to jump to conclusions about their taxes until the grand list is completed. As the revaluation process ran behind schedule, Mark has also notified the secretary of OPM that he has granted the Town's Assessor a one-month extension to publish the grand list.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Approval of Mark Showalter as Fire Chief: The Washington volunteer Fire Department has held their annual elections. Mark Showalter has been elected Chief. As required, the Selectmen made the following Motion: To endorse and approve the election of Mark Showalter as Chief of the Washington Volunteer Fire Department. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

* Invitation to Bid for the Sale of F450 Highway Department truck: One of the Highway Department's new trucks will be ready for delivery within the next couple of weeks. Once it arrives, the Town will be selling its 2001 F450. Motion: To extend an Invitation to Bid for the sale of a 2001 F450 4-wheel drive Mason dump truck; 71,000 +/- miles; 8 ft. hydraulic stainless steel sander; 9 ft. Fisher heavy duty series minute mount plow. Bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009. For more information contact the First Selectman's Office at 860-868-2259. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved. The Selectmen discussed the possibility of also placing a "classified

ad” regarding the sale of the truck, indicating that it is by sealed bid.

* Election of Board of Education members by machine vote: Mark explained that four of Washington’s representatives to the Board of Ed would be up for re-election in May 2009. Presently, perspective candidates are nominated and voted for at the May Town Meeting – leaving the public with no prior information on who is running. There has been discussion of developing a system that would allow candidates time to “campaign”, to give the public more time to decide on who they would vote for and to get a larger turnout of voters. Last year, Roxbury nominated candidates at their May Town Meeting and then adjourned to a machine vote two weeks later. The Selectmen have begun to gather more information from the Town Clerk on this procedure and will make a decision soon.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

* Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen’s Secretary
1-22-09