

February 17, 2011

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

Present: Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley. First Selectman Lyon is currently on vacation and will return in time for the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Press: Jack Coraggio - Litchfield County Times.

Public: Andrea Coakley, Louise Churyk, Imad Afiouni, Ulrich Vilbois, Vince Casey.

Call to Order:

Selectman Solley called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Communications:

* Article "Fair Tax Group Lining up to File Lawsuit" submitted by Ken Cornet and Joe Mustich:

Ken and Joe write:

"While Washington's property reval is over, Princeton is challenging their reval as the larger property owners are taxed less than the smaller property owners, proportionally, just like in out town of Washington, CT, which is why many of us raised a stink, as the land values were inflated and the house values deflated, etc. in many cases, just as the real estate market crashed."

A copy of the article regarding this Princeton, NJ Fair Tax Revaluation Commission, is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Appointment of Vincent Belanger to the Building & Property Commission:

Nick Solley explained this Commission oversees the maintenance, upkeep, construction, etc. of all the Town-owned buildings and properties. The death of Charles Boucher was a loss to the Commission and the Town. Vincent Belanger has expressed his willingness to fill this vacancy and the Board of Selectmen feel he will be an asset to the Town.

Motion:

To appoint Vincent Belanger to the Building and Property Commission until January 1, 2012.

By Nick Solley, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

First Selectman's Report:

Nick Solley reported in Mark Lyon's absence on the following:

* New Highway Department Pick-up Truck:

has been received and has the capability of having a plow installed.

* FEMA Funds:

As a result of the storms to hit Connecticut in January, the State, and Towns, may be eligible to receive funding from FEMA to recoup the higher than expected expenses associated with the storm(s). A forty-

eight period on January 11-13 resulted in overtime hours, equipment hours and extensive materials (salt, sand) use. The preliminary reports have been filed by the Selectmen's Office indicating a cost of approximately \$34,000 for that time period.

*** Winter Maintenance Budget:**

The "Winter Maintenance" section of the Highway Department budget covers the months of December, January, February, March. At 66% of the way through that period, 80% of the budgeted funds have been spent.

OLD BUSINESS:

none.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Girl Scout Week Proclamation:**

This year marks the 99th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA. Over 55,000 girls and 18,000 adults around the State of CT participate in the Girl Scouts of Connecticut program.

Motion:

To adopt the following Girl Scout Week Proclamation.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

*GIRL SCOUT WEEK
PROCLAMATION*

WHEREAS, March 12, marks the 99th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, throughout its distinguished history, Girl Scouting has inspired millions of girls and women with the highest ideals of courage, confidence, and character; and,

WHEREAS, through the Girl Scout leadership experience girls develop the skills and lessons that will serve them a lifetime so that they may contribute to their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting takes an active role in increasing girls' awareness of the opportunities available to them today in math, science, sports, technology and other fields that can expand their horizons; and,

WHEREAS, more than 3 million current Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 99 years of this American tradition, with nearly 50 million women who are former Girl Scouts and living proof of the impact of this amazing Movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mark E. Lyon, James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley, by virtue of the authority vested in us as Selectmen of the Town of Washington, Connecticut, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to support the leadership development of America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 6, 2011, as Girl Scout Week.

Visitors:

* Andrea Coakley thanked the Board of Selectmen for hosting the Public Informational Meeting regarding the proposed AT&T cell tower at 17 Warren Road on January 29, 2011 and read the following statement:

Statement of Opposition to Proposed Alternative Sites to 17 Warren Road

On January 29, 2011, AT&T held an informational meeting with the Town of Washington, its residents, and members of the Washington Montessori School for the proposed cell tower at 17 Warren Road in Washington, Connecticut. We appreciate the role of the Washington Montessori School throughout this process. We do not, however, support their legal counsel's nomination of three alternative sites for the tower.

We, the undersigned, unequivocally oppose the 17 Warren Road site, those alternative sites proposed on January 29, and any effort to relocate the proposed tower to an area that would compromise other residents or harm the environmentally sensitive Route 202 corridor.

Sincerely,

William Ahearn, Sheila Sullivan, Tim Coakley, Andrea Coakley, Imad Afiouni, Christine Afiouni, Patricia Devlin, Joslyn Pollock, Bill Pollock, Stefan Churyk, Carole Churyk, Louise Churyk, Wayne Churyk, Ulrich Vilbois, Ingrid Salcedo, Janice Smith, Eleza Paul, Christina Paul, Vince Casey, Toby Casey, Laura Levinstein, Susan Loyd, Rob Odom, Simone Odom, Ene Riisna, Jim Greenfield, John Hart, Sandra Canning, and Diana Hardee. (Names updated February 17, 2011.)

- Discussion continued with questions as to whether the Selectmen had received notification from AT&T that they have investigated any other suggestions presented - i.e. Waterbury Reservoir, Mashapaug Preserve. Nick Solley stated he only knew of their investigating extending the height of the Marbledale tower by 10 feet. Other points discussed included the Town's involvement in alternate site suggestions - being pro-active early in the process, the Siting Council's authority in regard to Town regulations, permits, etc. Jim Brinton suggested that the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission's Cell Tower Committee meet to converse about what is best for the Town of Washington.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:14p.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