

February 3, 2011

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: Jack Coraggio

Public: John Meeker, Wayne Hileman, Erhard Werner, Pat Werner.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported on the following:

* Winter Maintenance Budget:

Approximately 60% of the winter maintenance budget has been used to this point – however there is approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 in outstanding bills for material and equipment repair. If costs for the season go over budget (bad weather continuing) the Selectmen may need to request an ex-budget appropriation or transfer funds from another area in the budget. Biggest problem has been getting materials (salt/sand/magic salt). John Meeker asked if the Town had used any sub-contractors to assist with snow clean up and/or snow removal. Mark explained that Pete Bennett and Towne & Aurell had been used for a cost of approximately \$4500. May need to use them, or others, again this season.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Resident State Trooper Contract:

Mark Lyon reported he has again spoken with the Department of Public Safety's Kathleen Stack regarding the overtime charge in the Resident State Trooper's Contract. Washington has not yet signed the contract (that was to cover the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011) due to concerns over the section dealing with overtime charges, and not getting what the Selectmen feel, is a compelling explanation. Ms. Stack will send a more concise explanation from the State Comptroller's Office. There was discussion that the services for the Town have not been affected by not signing; limiting the overtime hours of the Resident Trooper would possibly keep the charges in question in line. John Meeker affirmed the fact that the Town would continue to be covered by the barracks even without our own Resident Trooper. Jim Brinton suggested speaking with the Town of Kent that no longer has a Resident Trooper. Nick Solley asked if there were other Towns that had not signed. Mark explained there were several Town that had also spoken with their State legislators with the same concern as Washington. He did not know if they still had not signed. Following discussion, the Board agreed to wait to receive the information from the Comptroller before agreeing to sign the contract.

* Continued discussion of Blackville Road cell tower lease:

RF Engineer Walter Cooper is continuing to work on the technical aspects of monitoring. Once this information is received the Selectmen and the Cell Tower Committee will get together and communication thoughts and ideas with Dick Comi. The Selectmen would like to have this information by the end of February.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Board of Education Election process:

Mark explained that two of Washington's representatives, Michelle Gorra and Tony Bedini, terms will be expiring. For the last Board of Education election, candidates were nominated at a Town Meeting in March and April and placed on the ballot for voting at the Referendum in May. This proved to work well – giving the public time to learn more about the candidates, generate interest, etc.

Motion:

To continue the process of nominating Board of Election candidates at a Town Meeting in March or April, and to place the candidates on the ballot for election at the May Referendum.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* John Meeker asked if there had been any progress on obtaining a generator for the Highway Department. Mark explained there had been no action on this.

* Pat Werner thanked the Board of Selectmen for their presence at the Public Information Meeting regarding the AT&T cell tower proposal for 17 Warren Road. And explained it was her understanding that for the present time, AT&T would not be proceeding with its application. Other solutions such as co-locating on the Marbledale tower, alternate locations, etc may be explored. Ms. Werner asked the Town to be pro-active for future proposals, discussions, etc. Washington Montessori has been criticized for the position it took in making alternate suggestions. Discussion continued as to how much the Town can or should get involved in commercial ventures, the costs in hiring attorneys, engineers, consultants, zoning regulations, etc. Jim Brinton felt that the Town could request that telecommunication companies work with the Town by notifying it at the beginning of the process of identifying possible sites.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary