

## • **February 7, 2008**

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton, and Richard C. Sears.

**Press:** Ann Compton - VOICES, Jack Corraggio - Litchfield County Times

**Public:** Roderick Wyant, III, Bob Papsin, Sheila Anson, Lisa Easter, Joe Fredlund, Ray Reich, Chris Charles, Stephen Tibor Kiss, Ken Cornet, Jeff Cox.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 24, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the notes from the three Budget Work Sessions that have been held with the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

### **Appointments/Resignations:**

- **Housing Commission:** Mark explained that he had received letters/resumes from three residents interested in serving on the Housing Commission: Tammy Wyant Rill, Stephen Tibor Kiss, and Andrew K. O'Hazo, Jr. Wayne Hileman, Chairman of the Commission, recommended Andrew O'Hazo for the position. **Motion:** To appoint Andrew K. O'Hazo to the Housing Commission until 1/1/2011. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dick Sears. Discussion: All three candidates were felt to be well qualified. Wayne's recommendation of Andrew was considered a strong point. The motion passed unanimously.

### **First Selectman's Report:**

- **Shepaug River Report:** Randy Bernard has informed Mark that bids have gone out for valve and dam work. DEP signatures have been requested and the project is moving along.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Washington Primary School - New School vs. Renovation of Old:** Mark explained that with all the discussion about a consolidated primary school vs. renovating the Washington Primary School, many have raised the question as to whether or not it would be better - financially and educationally - to build an entirely new facility. The Shepaug campus has been mentioned as a possible spot, as has the current WPS property (an area away from the flood plain). In order to determine true costs of a new school, SLAM has agreed to work up these figures, which would then be given to the Region's Building Committee for review. Should a new school be built, a committee is being formed to explore the possible uses of the current school building.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Town Meeting Date re: WPS Options and School Lease:** Mark explained that at the present time, there is no final draft available regarding the three primary school leases with the Region and therefore it is not ready to bring to a Town Meeting. Hopefully by the next Board of Selectmen's meeting there will

be.

**Visitors:**

- **Parks and Recreation Commissioners - Re: ex-budget appropriation request for staffing for opening the Beach Memorial Day Weekend:** Several members of the Commission attended today's meeting with Sheila Anson-Chairman, Lisa Easter-Coordinator and Jeff Cox-Beach Director making the presentation. They explained that several residents have requested that the Beach be open to the public earlier than the current opening day, which is always scheduled for the day after Shepaug's graduation. If the Beach opened on Memorial Day Weekend and was staffed then and the next two weekends prior to the regular opening day, it would mean an additional 7 days of staffing that were not budgeted for. Therefore, it was thought that an ex-budget appropriation request would be required to get the necessary funds. However, Lisa calculated that due to a number of rain days last season, there was enough money left in the budget to cover these three weekends and an ex-budget request was not necessary. Dick Sears questioned the number of people who had made the request to open early and whether it was a fair representation of the public to spend the money. The Selectmen asked that records be kept to determine the amount of use of the beach on these weekends. There was general discussion regarding hours of the beach and launch, liability, etc.**Motion:** The Board of Selectmen supports the request of the Parks and Recreation Commission to open and staff the Beach Memorial Day Weekend and the following two weekends. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon. Dick Sears abstained. The motion passed.
- **Chris Charles - Farmland Preservation:** Chris asked to speak with the Selectmen and presented a map that shows the amount of farmland in New Milford, particularly where it aligns with Washington. Some is being considered for development. The map was informative and Chris felt that it would be beneficial to both Towns to open lines of communication, share values, etc.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary