

• **March 22, 2007**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectman Mark E. Lyon

Press: Ann Compton - VOICES

Public: Susan Payne, Diane Dupuis, Blake Levitt, Joe Mustich, Ken Cornet, Valerie Friedman, Valerie Andersen, Douglas Stange, Chris Charles, Janet Buonaiuto, other members of the public.

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

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Susan Payne - Cell Towers:** Susan, Conservation Commission Chairman, read and presented a statement to the Board of Selectmen regarding the proposed Verizon Cell Towers. The Conservation Commission is requesting the Board to become interveners in the Verizon cell tower application to be filed March 29. They "are concerned about the impact of this proposal on Marble Dale residents, their health, safety and their property values; and on the rural character, viewscape and natural resources of the Route 202 corridor..." The statement also addresses concerns about the "absence of the Zoning Commission" on this matter and requests the BOS to request a master plan of Verizon, AT&T and any other companies who provide or plan to expand or provide wireless service in the region. It also requests the Board join with neighboring towns and the NW Council of Governments to assess the need for cell towers. **Diane Dupuis**, member of the Cell Tower Committee, also presented a statement, which referred to the recommendations of Blake Levitt, Consultant, that have been presented to the Board of Selectmen and outlined other areas of concern such as Scenic view sheds, the urging of the Town to hire an FCC attorney and an RF engineer. Dick Sears assured those present that the Town would file to become interveners. Dick also stated that the hiring of engineers and attorneys makes sense but the Town will need to be clear on its goals, projected costs and have an understanding of all the issues etc. Blake Levitt's report and expertise will be relied on. Dick also suggested that Susan speak directly with David Owen, Zoning Commission Chairman, about her concerns with the zoning regulations. **Blake Levitt** presented further suggestions on how to proceed with diplomacy, the offering of alternative options etc. **Douglas Stange** read a letter that he has written to the Conservation Commission that requests the Town of Washington do whatever is required to defeat the cell tower proposals for the Marble Dale, New Preston area. The above-mentioned statements and letter are attached to these minutes on file with the Town Clerk. Selectman Mark Lyon voiced his opinion that the Town should file as an intervener, that thought needs to be given to what points need to be made. He also voiced his opinion that he believes there are two sides to the issue - he feels service is needed in Town and there may be ways to achieve this that will be acceptable to both sides. Valerie Andersen suggested the Selectmen make a formal motion to become an intervener, and to hire the FCC attorney(s) and RF engineers. Mark Lyon was in agreement with this for the intervener but felt that more information was required before approving the hiring of the attorney and engineer. **Motion:** To approve filing for intervener status on the Verizon cell tower application to be filed with the CT Siting Council on March 29. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

- **Joe Mustich - Petitioning Efforts:** Joe read a statement he had prepared for the Board of Selectmen

re: the "purging of names from petitions that prevented the (March 8th Town Meeting) resolution from being moved into the voting booth". Mark Lyon expressed his opinion that the subject was behind us and he was "willing to let it die." Joe strongly expressed his opinion that it should **not** die, and that phases II and III were still ahead of the Town and should be monitored carefully and closely. **Janet Buoniauto** expressed her opinion that by purging the names from the petition for the reasons stated, the Town had failed its citizens. Dick Sears read the legal opinion of the Town's Attorney, David Miles, regarding the petition and supporting the decision of the Town Clerk. Dick also expressed his personal opinion that Sheila had done a proper job. Lengthy discussion ensued with many of those present with comments presented by Valerie Andersen, Ken Cornet, Diane Dupuis, and Chris Charles. Mark Lyon urged everyone to move forward and strongly defended the decisions of Sheila.

Communications:

- **Letter from Region #12 School Board:** Dick Sears read a letter from Irene Allan, Chairman of the Region #12 School Board requesting an extension on the current lease between the Town of Washington and Region #12 for the Washington Primary School building. **Motion:** To extend the current elementary school lease between the Town of Washington and the Shepaug Valley Regional School District #12, under the existing terms, through June 30, 2008. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Elderly Tax Relief income figure increase request:** Pursuant to the March 8th, 2007 Town Meeting approval of an amendment to the Elderly Tax Relief Ordinance, and at the request of Barbara Johnson, Tax Assessor, the following motion was made: **Motion:** To approve the increase of the local tax relief maximum income figure in the Elderly Tax Relief Ordinance to \$39,500. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved. The request will also be presented to the Board of Finance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Alert Notification System:** Emergency Management Coordinator, Robert "Rocky" Tomlinson, attended today's meeting to present information on an emergency notification system that could be used to notify the entire town in the event of an emergency. It is the same system that is used by Region #12 and comes highly recommended by them. There is an annual cost of \$2970 that this year will be reimbursed through the Homeland Security Grant. **Motion:** To enter into a year contract with AlertNow Notification System for a cost of \$2970. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary