

• **March 25, 2004**

Present: First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nicholas Solley and Harry Wyant.
Press: John Addyman, Voices, Elf Lefferts, Litchfield County Times
Public: Mark Lyon, Chris Charles.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34p.m.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 11, 2004 Board of Selectmen's meeting. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 18, 2004 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Visitors: See below under New Business.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Fire Company request to include residential numbers n certain street signs:** The Board of Selectmen has received a letter from Fireman Duncan Woodruff requesting that house numbers be placed on certain road signs where the road is bisected by other roads, and where portions of road are unimproved and impassable and homes are on either end. These would include Christian Street, Wilbur Road, Kinney Hill Road, Tinker Hill Road, Sabbaday Lane and West Mountain Road. Fire Chief Mark Lyon explained the danger that can arise to emergency response when it is not clear what section of a road a home is on. The Board of Selectmen unanimously agreed to honor this request and will speak with the Highway Department regarding having these signs made. The numbers would be on a sign directly under the road name sign. The Town's 911 list will be used.

- **Gunn Hill Road being designated as a Scenic Road:** The Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of designating a portion of Gunn Hill Road as a Scenic Road (a petition has been submitted to the Planning Commission). A part of the road has had drainage work done and re-claimed asphalt has been applied. Nick Solley explained that there is a considerable amount of work that still needs to be done to this road to make the necessary improvements (this may include some paving). Nick further stated that he personally would not be in favor of designating Gunn Hill Road or a portion of it as a scenic road until this work is completed. Some property owners have expressed a desire to have the entire road paved; others would like it to be maintained as a dirt road. Chris Charles, a member of the Planning Commission, explained that it was on the agenda for the next meeting (April 6th) to be discussed. The Board of Selectmen agreed they would like to request that the Planning Commission not consider the scenic road designation until the condition of the road can be discussed and the necessary improvements made. The Selectmen will write a letter to this effect to the Commission. Furthermore, the Selectmen discussed the criteria in general for scenic road designation. Joe Gitterman and his committee have written the steps that need to be followed to make the application for designation as a scenic road. It is the sentiment of the Board that another step be incorporated into the process that would require coming to the Board of Selectmen in order that condition and necessary improvements can be discussed with the Road Foreman and an engineer is necessary. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen is requesting the Planning

Commission place a moratorium on a decision on Gunn Hill Road's being considered as a scenic road until the condition and possible future improvements are reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

- **Acceptance of Houldin & Read sidewalk on Green Hill Road:** William Houldin and Bert Read have offered to give the Town of Washington a portion of property that includes a sidewalk that runs from the Houldin/Read building to the cross walk to Washington Pharmacy. The sidewalk is in need of repair and the current owners do not wish to do this work. They would be inclined to remove the walk if the Town does not take it over. The Selectmen feel the sidewalk should be repaired and kept as a public convenience. **Motion:** The Town of Washington will take over ownership of this piece of property (pending Town Meeting approval) if Mr. Houldin and Mr. Read assume financial responsibility for legal expenses that would include a survey and closing costs. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

- **Presentation of Draft 2004-2005 General Fund and Capital budgets to the Board of Finance.** The Board of Selectmen have been holding budget work sessions for the past several weeks and the drafts will be given and discussed with the Board of Finance on Monday, March 29th, 2004 at 5:00p.m.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:05p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary