

March 31, 2011

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – Litchfield County Times.

Public: David Plourde, Clifford Woodruff, Michael Cruse, Valerie Friedman, Denise Arturi, Steven Law, Edwin Matthews, Tammy Sherman, Rocky Tomlinson, Linda McGarr, Duncan Woodruff, Chris Charles, Sheila Anson, Tim and Andrea Coakley.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Motion:

To add subsequent business not already on the agenda.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion: this business would be to discuss the Boards of Selectmen and Finance sending a letter to the Region #12 Board of Education regarding their proposed budget increases.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 17, 2011 Regular Meeting and the March 24, 2011 Special 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 the following:

* FEMA Meeting:

Meeting on April 7th is scheduled to review paperwork, any additional required information etc. for the 48 hour time period in January for road snow removal.

* Department of Public Safety Grant:

A grant for CMED services will be awarded to Litchfield County Dispatch.

* DCS Energy:

performed a site inspection on March 29th of the municipal buildings that are being considered for solar panels.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Denise Arturi re: Greenhouse placement for Judea Garden:

Denise explained that Aimee Cowan as part of her Shepaug Senior Project purchased a greenhouse to start tree seedlings that she would like to donate to Steep Rock and Judea Garden. The thought was to install it at the Garden location at the Macricostas Preserve however a conservation easement with the DEP prevents its installation at the present time. Steep Rock is hopeful this can be resolved. In the meantime Denise is requesting it be placed at the old town garage site so that it could be utilized for this growing season. Mark voiced concern about the lack of security and Nick suggested Denise check with Land Use Enforcement Officer, Mike Ajello. Motion: To approve the placement of the greenhouse temporarily at the old town garage site on Titus Road if Land Use regulations do not prevent this from occurring. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

* Edwin Matthews re: Civil War Memorial Monument:

Edwin explained this year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. 2015 would mark the 150th anniversary of Appomattox. Edwin has done research that indicates 30 residents of the Town of Washington lost their lives serving in this War (possibly over 100 served) and he is proposing a Monument be erected to honor them. Funding would be raised privately and if the Board of Selectmen is in favor of pursuing this, a committee would be formed to investigate a spot on public property for its placement and the Selectmen would have the final approval on the site and design in time for the 2015 anniversary. Mark and Nick expressed their approval of moving this project further. Edwin also requested the Town pass a Resolution honoring those who served at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting. This too was approved. Rocky Tomlinson voiced his support and also asked that memorials be considered for the wars currently being fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

* Steven Law, Executive Director Steep Rock – Pedestrian Bridge Update:

Steve explained the history of this proposed alternate pedestrian bridge – to take the place of the planned DOT pedestrian bridge attached to the traffic bridge on Bee Brook Road at Hidden Valley – Steep Rock trustees concerned about the aesthetics, flow between parking lots, work with the trail system and be ADA compliant. Funds have been approved by a private foundation and there will be not cost to Steep Rock or the Town. A preliminary design has been done with consultants/engineers examining alternate sites, spans, etc. DOT and DEP have been involved in this work. A cost estimate is due in approximately two weeks. If the plans are approved DOT would not transfer the funds that would have been used for their initial pedestrian bridge to this alternate bridge, however, a STEAP grant has been made available to the Town for it. Once the cost is arrived at, it will then be determined if it is feasible given the amount of the Foundation and STEAP grants. If it is, permits will be applied for, informational meetings held for the public and a Town Meeting to gain final approval of the townspeople. If the cost exceeds the monies available, the original DOT pedestrian bridge will be constructed as part of the traffic bridge. Chris Charles voiced concern that the alternate bridge plan does not meet all the needs of serving both parking lots, etc. and voiced his opinion that the townspeople have the opportunity to participate in any final decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Speed bumps Flirtation Avenue:

The request for installation of speed bumps has come as a result of increased traffic on Flirtation Ave because of the road construction on Route 45 in New Preston. This has been looked into previously for other roads and it has been determined that in reality more problems are caused as a result and they are in fact a municipal liability – hazard to motorcyclists, bicyclists, damage to cars, etc. The Selectmen determined not to install them at this time. Police coverage has been increased and will continue to be. Site lines are being improved at Sandstrom Road by the Highway Department and “flashing speed limit signs” will be put in place at different time periods.

* Letter to Shepaug Regional School District #12 Board of Education:

Mark explained that the First Selectmen of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, along with their Board of Finance Chairmen, met with the Board of Education and requested that their proposed budget for next year not be increased more than 1 to 1 ½ percent, not the 2.43% increase presented. A letter from Washington's Board of Selectmen, along with the Board of Finance would re-iterate this request.

Motion: To send a letter to the Region #12 Board of Education from Washington's Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance requesting that the Region's budget not be increase more than 1 to 1 ½%. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* Clifford Woodruff attended this meeting to bring concerns he has with the Town's Land Use Commissions and some personnel to the attention of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Woodruff maintains that Roberta Smith, an adjoining property owner to him, was not required to get all the necessary permits, and that he has brought issues that he feels threaten the environment and public health to the attention of Zoning and the Enforcement Officer and he feels that he has not received answers and has not been treated equally. David Plourde, another adjoining property owner who had to leave this meeting, asked Clifford to read a note that stated that he was denied a permit and not given equal treatment and that it was suggested "he sell his property to Mrs. Smith as it was useless to him". Clifford read sections of emails between Michael Ajello and Janet Hill and asked that they become part of this record. Michael Curse confirmed Clifford's account of a Zoning meeting at which he was asked not to attend. The Selectmen asked Clifford to supply the documentation he has, a summary of what has transpired and with whom, and it will be reviewed.

* Tim Coakley inquired about the 6 Mountain Road cell tower and the application before the Siting Council for an extension on it by AT&T. Mark explained he had expressed to the Siting Council the Town's concerns with appearance, antenna configuration and inspection of ability to carry load. Tim asked, if AT&T is approved and is placed on the tower, if the Town would be active in confirming that they are putting out the full signal so that more towers will not need to be constructed. Mark explained that if an application for another tower came through that would be the time to consider testing AT&T's output but there are not plans to do that now. Tim requested that the Town be pro-active and measure Verizon's signal and then measure AT&T's should they be placed on the tower.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 7:16 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