

March 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.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Office of the First Selectman.

Motion:

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:30 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion: Mr. Lyon explained the Executive Session would be held in the Office of the First Selectman out of respect for the privacy of, and at the request, of the employee being discussed.

v The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. and the Selectmen moved to the Land Use Room to conduct the Regular Meeting.

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Jack Coraggio - Litchfield County Times.

Public: John Meeker, Charles LaMunier, Tony Bedini, Peter Pappas, Christine and Imad Afiouni, Louise Churyk, Peter Talbot, Meg Morrow, Brad Harding, Valerie Friedman, Frank Adams, Andrea Coakley, Tim Coakley, Pat Devlin, Dick Carey.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. thanking the public for their patience.

Motion:

To terminate the employment of the employee discussed in Executive Session.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following corrections: Under "FEMA Funds" the minutes should read forty-eight hour period.

Communications:

* Letter from Bob Mandel re: dog park:

Mr. Mandel inquired what would be involved in creating a dog park in the Town of Washington siting the advantage of having a location where dogs and owners could gather without leashes and socialize without worry about traffic. Jim Brinton explained that several years ago the subject had been brought up - possibly at the old Town Garage site. Materials for the Town's Highway Department are still being stored there. Jim had also looked into parks in other Towns and found that the biggest "complaint" was

the inability to keep them seeded and grassed and they became muddy. The Selectmen said no further action or discussion has occurred in Washington but would not rule it out for the future.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Scott Tilden from the Historic District Commission:

The Board of Selectmen has received a letter from Scott Tilden notifying them of his resignation from the Historic District Commission. Motion: To accept the resignation of Scott Tilden from the Historic District Commission, effective immediately, with gratitude for his years of service. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

* Appointment of Jane Boyer as a Regular Member of the Historic District Commission until 1/1/13:

Motion:

To appoint Jane Boyer as a Regular Member of the Historic District Commission (moving up from an Alternate) until 1/1/13.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion: HDC Chairman Alison Gilchrist recommended this appointment.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Appointment of George A. Krinsky as an Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission until 1/1/12 and Thomas H. Hollinger as an Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission until 1/1/13.

Motion:

To appoint George A. Krinsky (U) and Thomas H. Hollinger (r) as Alternates to the Historic District Commission until 1/1/12 and 1/1/13 respectively.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion: HDC Chairman Alison Gilchrist suggested these two candidates - they have been contacted and are in agreement.

The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Lyon reported on the following:

* Phil Markert, Cell Tower Committee member, has been working with Dick Comi and Walter Cooper re: possible points for inclusion in the lease agreement between the Town and Verizon for the proposed telecommunications tower on Blackville Road (Town Highway Department property). A meeting will then be held with the Selectmen and the Cell Tower Committee. A public information meeting will be held prior to a Town Meeting that would be required to approve a lease. Selectman Jim Brinton suggested that a time line be created with the upcoming steps necessary for negotiations and possible approval of the tower.

* AT&T has petitioned the Siting Council for a 10-foot extension of the Verizon tower in Marbledale. T-Mobile Northeast has filed a Tower Share Request with the Siting Council for a 3-panel type antenna to be mounted at the 127-foot centerline, which is below the existing Verizon array on the Marbledale tower. Mark has forwarded information on to the Conservation Commission. The public may attend any informational meetings that may be held.

* Tower Generator Services met with Mark and Kevin Smith at the Highway Department complex to assess the needs and will submit a budget proposal with several alternatives.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Resident State Trooper contract:**

Mark has received information from Pauline Stack of the CT Department of Public Safety in which she forwards information from the Attorney General's office, the State Comptroller and Director of Public Safety explaining the addition of fringe benefit costs added to Resident Trooper overtime billing. There is still question regarding the percentage used in calculation of the fringe benefit cost that is billed to the Town. Mark will again contact Ms. Stack.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Birch Hill Run Discussion:**

Nick Solley explained that, by Town Ordinance, once an approved subdivision reaches 50% development, the developer is required to petition the Town to have the road become part of the Town road system. Birch Hill Run met this percentage several years ago. At that time, Mr. Pappas (developer) was contacted and advised of improvements that needed to be made by him prior to the Town's accepting the road at a Town Meeting - these improvements were not completed. Mr. Pappas explained that he had contacted the Town on several occasions, that the Town did not accept the road and that the subdivision has in fact expired. Mr. Pappas also expressed his distress at not being contacted prior to the last Planning Commission meeting or this meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Following more discussion, it was agreed by the Selectmen and Mr. Pappas to hold a Special Board of Selectmen's meeting the week of March 14th.

*** IW Shoreline Protection Policy Draft:**

Tony Bedini, IW Chairman, explained that the Commission has been working on a policy for Lake Waramaug and other large water bodies in Town. The draft is referred to as an "ordinance" but the Commission has not yet determined whether it would be most effective as a Town ordinance or as a revision to the IW regulations. The draft has been sent to the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission and Zoning Commission for review, and comments. Once the language is finalized it will be reviewed by the Land Use Attorney, and the DEP. A public hearing will be held prior to final approval.

Visitors:

* Pat Devlin introduced Meg Morrow and Brad Harding of *Progressive Medicine* who spoke of closing their clinic in Kent due to their experiencing debilitating health effects from working within 900 feet of a telecommunications monopole. They have relocated in Litchfield. According to them, they began noticing cognitive and physical changes that they believed were a result of their closeness to the tower and high frequency emitted. Their research with experts validated their claims. Both spoke of the reality of cell towers being placed in communities but urged that locations be found that are not in residential or highly populated areas and especially not close to schools. They maintain that their symptoms have improved 80% since their move.

Adjournment:

Motion:

o adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary