

## • **March 6, 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:** Tony Bedini, Hank Martin, Valerie Andersen.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 21, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None. Mark Lyon, however, reported there are two candidates interested in the vacancy for the Historic District Commission. The Commission will review and discuss at the next HDC meeting and report back to the Selectmen for appointment at the next Selectmen's meeting.

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

- **Court ruling re: Region #12 lawsuit:** Mark reported that the Superior Court, Judicial District of Litchfield, has ruled that "a referendum on the proposal to appropriate funds for the construction of a new consolidated elementary school in Regional School District #12, and to authorize the appropriation of bonds and temporary notes to finance a portion of the appropriation, may be conducted pursuant to C.G.S. #10-56, with the question to be determined by the majority of those persons voting in the District as a whole..."
- **Update on WPS Study:** The Board of Selectmen hired SLAM Collaborative to give a conceptual plan and estimate of costs to build the Washington Primary School on the Shepaug campus. Mark stated that he feels that as a result of the study, this possibility should be investigated and refer it to a Town Informational meeting. Mark has also spoken to the Washington members of the Board of Education and will make a presentation to the Regional Building Committee.
- **Beach Plans:** Dick Sears asked for an update on the permit process for the Beach, Boat House, and cottage. Mark explained that not all plans and information were ready for the previous ZBA & IW meetings. The Town is on the agendas for their next meetings. Tom McGowan of LWA will handle the plans, questions, etc. for the installation of the compressor.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Girl Scout Week Proclamation:** The Selectmen agreed to pass the following Proclamation:

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place Week**

**March 9-15, 2008**

**WHEREAS**, Wednesday, March 12, 2008, marks the 96th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout its long and distinguished history, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

**WHEREAS**, Girl Scouting's core values of high ideals, patriotism, respect for self and others, and community service permeate its traditional and innovative programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, through Girl Scouting's unique leadership development program, girls develop their potential and the self-confidence and life skills to improve themselves and the world around them; and,

**WHEREAS**, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, the Girl Scout Program is brought to over 55,000 girls in grades K-12 across the State of Connecticut; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than 3.7 million Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 96 years of this American tradition with nearly 50 million women who grew up participating in Girl Scouting and who exemplify the impact of this empowering Movement that emphasized helping others and community service;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, Mark E. Lyon, James L. Brinton and Richard C. Sears, by virtue of the authority vested in us as the Board of Selectmen, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to America's girls and their local communities and proudly proclaim the week of March 9-15, 2008, as "Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place Week."

Dated at **Washington, Connecticut** this 6th day of March, 2008.

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**Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman**

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**James L. Brinton, Selectman**

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**Richard C. Sears, Selectman**

• **Health Department Agreement with New Milford:** Mark explained that New Milford's Town Council has reviewed the agreement between New Milford and Washington and has found nothing they feel needs to be changed. Washington is also pleased with the agreement. **Motion:** To accept the Health Department Service agreement between the Town of New Milford and the Town of Washington for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton. Discussion: Jim asked about the availability of reports. Dick explained that they are all available. The motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors:**

• **Hank Martin** inquired about the Town's agreement with New Milford's Health Department and the possibility of Washington's joining a Health District. Dick Sears explained that this had been looked into

a couple of years ago and after careful evaluation it was felt that it was in the best interest of the Town of Washington, for cost and services, to remain in this agreement with New Milford.

- **Valerie Andersen** thanked the Board of Selectmen for having the study done regarding the feasibility of building the Washington Primary School on the Shepaug campus and stated she felt it was an idea worth exploring further. However, she urged the Selectmen to explore the septic issues with monies that were left in the budget for the study. This apparently was an area of great concern during conversations about building a consolidated primary school on the site. Dick Sears agreed reminding that the current septic system cannot be added on to. Is there a location where it could be constructed for the primary school building? Mark explained that the SLAM plan included \$2.5 million for septic issues. Valerie recommended local contractors also be contacted for their review as they are familiar with the Town's permit processes, etc. There was further discussion regarding the voting time lines for referendums and Valerie urged the Selectmen to work with the Board of Ed and possibly our State representatives to find a way to hold a single, clear vote regarding the allocating of funds for renovations of the primary schools or construction of a consolidated school. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington will request the Region #12 Board of Education to find a way to have a single binding referendum on the primary school issue. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Hank Martin** asked to address the issue of the primary school lease agreements. He, as a taxpayer, is outraged that the Towns and the Board of Ed were not able to meet the deadline with the State to get reimbursement for monies spent. He feels the gap between the Lease Committee and the Board of Education is unacceptable. There was further discussion between Hank, **Tony Bedini, Valerie Andersen**, and the Board of Selectmen regarding the Lease Committee, Board of Ed leadership, communication processes, etc.

- **Dick Sears** asked to have the floor and read a letter in which he resigned his position as Selectman for the Town of Washington effective Friday, March 7, 2008. His letter stated, "I find that other demands on my time do not permit me to perform the duties required of a Selectman. I am proud to have served the citizens of Washington in this capacity for four years. I am honored to have had the public put its trust in me as its representative over that time. Someone who has the experience, wisdom, and time to give all that the position requires can better serve Washington. I believe that on one is better suited to serve in the capacity of Selectman than Nick Solley, and I hope he joins you on the Board...." Mark and Jim asked that the minutes reflect their gratitude to Dick for his service to the Town and appreciation for his help over the last few months.

#### **Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary