

# April 11, 2002

First Selectman Elaine Luckey called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Present: Selectmen: Elaine Luckey, Nick Solley, Harry Wyant

Guests: Claire Wilber, Shepaug Youth Ass'n.

Denise Trevenen, Esq.

Valerie Friedman, Matt Franjola

**Shepaug Youth Association:** Claire Wilber reported the Shepaug Youth Ass'n. Task Force had investigated the need to inventory existing youth programs and activities offered in the tri-town area. They conducted a student survey to ascertain the students' needs, requests and attitudes after having searched out programs and activities in other communities within the State. The Task Force detailed their findings and recommended possible steps to the three communities (attachment 1). Claire requested the Board of Selectmen appoint a liaison to serve on a Board of Directors to establish various programs and activities for the youth and parents of the towns. A Board of Directors consisting of a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 25 volunteers members has been recommended, that is representative of the three communities. The Selectmen will address this request over the next few weeks.

**Town Property - Bee Brook Road:** Attorney Denise Trevenen requested the Selectmen consider quit claiming a two ft. wide parcel of land to Joseph Bennett of Bee Brook Road. This land is situated adjacent to the Bennett property and other property owned by the State of Connecticut. (attachment 2) The parcel, which runs from Bee Brook Road to Buffum Road, was given to the Town in 1967 in order that a fence could be constructed to screen a dump area. This dump area has since been removed and Mr. Bennett would like to merge this property with his, as well as merging that property owned by the State. Nick Solley suggested that any legal fees involved be borne by Mr. Bennett. Nicholas Solley made a motion to refer this proposal to the Planning Commission and Town Counsel for review. Elaine Luckey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. In order to quite claim the property, a town meeting vote would also be necessary.

**Education Budget:** Matt Franjola asked the Board if they had adopted a position on the school budget. Noting that they had not, he asked each individually what their thoughts were. While all three indicated they did not totally agree with the proposal and felt it was high, they also noted fixed costs do not give much leeway for reductions. They noted a referendum would be held for the public to vote on both the proposed track and soccer field, as well as the school budget itself. Mr. Franjola felt the cost per student did not reflect well with the Math CMT scores and that the towns are not getting a "bang for their buck." He felt the Selectmen should have come out either for or against the budget. The Selectmen noted the Board of Education is elected by the voters and Elaine did not feel that she had been elected to her position to oversee the Board of Ed. She felt Mr. Franjola should be addressing his remarks to that Board. Valerie Friedman was concerned that the Board of Finance's letter to the Board of Ed, which noted their concern that the Education budget was not in the Town's fiscal interest and that they recommended a vote against its adoption, would not be appearing in the upcoming newsletter. She felt that by running an article submitted by Chuck Isselee, chairman of the School Board, the newsletter would be one-side in providing an argument to support the school budget. She felt the residents were already paying for a mailing sent out by the school and this would not be a balanced presentation. While the Selectmen felt both Mr. Franjola and Ms. Friedman's comments were noteworthy, they did not feel it was their job to micromanage the school system at this point.

**Old Business:**

**Driveway Ordinance Amendment:** Elaine Luckey made a motion to amend the Driveway Ordinance as indicated in *bold italics* in attachment (3) and to include this item on the call for the May town meeting. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Building and Property Commission:** Elaine Luckey made a motion to amend the Building and Property Commission Ordinance as shown in *bold italics* on attachment (4) and to include this item on the call for the May town meeting. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Constable Ordinance:** Elaine Luckey made a motion to amend the Constable Ordinance as indicated on attachment (5) of these minutes. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. It was noted if the Town ever decided not to have a resident trooper, this Ordinance would have to be amended.

It was agreed to have the above three proposed amended Ordinances reviewed by Town Counsel.

**2002-2003 Budget:** The Board of Selectmen agreed to present a budget of \$3,063,642 for the General Fund and \$443,490 for the Capital Fund to the Board of Finance for consideration at their next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

**Sanitation:** Valerie Friedman reported it is Covanta's intention to continue to operate on a regular basis as allowed by a recent Court document. There is talk of their being taken over by another company. Valerie will keep the Selectmen apprised of the situation.

**Road Materials:** Elaine will talk with the Road Foreman in an attempt to locate a place where road materials may be stored while a project is being completed.

### **Minutes:**

March 1st: Elaine Luckey made a motion to accept these minutes as submitted. Harry Wyant seconded. All in favor.

March 5th: Elaine Luckey made a motion to accept these minutes with the addition of "across the board" as it referred to the 3% increase in salary. Harry Wyant seconded. All in favor.

March 7th: Elaine Luckey made a motion to accept these minutes with the addition of another "zero" under 025 Police to changed \$1,00 to \$1,000 for equipment and uniforms. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

March 14th and 27th minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Gollow, Selectman's Assistant