

April 14, 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.

Press: Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

Public: Joan Lodsin, Todd Peterson, Jason & Carolyn Hyde, John Meeker.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 31, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following correction under “Route 45 Update”: the signs had not been received.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the March 31, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following correction under “Present, Press”: Ann Compton – VOICES.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Gunn Memorial Library Invitation to the Board of Selectmen to attend and speak at the opening of the Civil War Exhibit Ceremony on May 1, 2011 at 12:00 Noon. Mark is hoping to attend.

* Email/Letter from Chris Charles re:

Pedestrian Bridge on Route 47 outlines and explains his concerns regarding the proposed bridge that will not be adjacent to the traffic bridge and, therefore, in his opinion, would not provide the pedestrian access along Route 47 or for the parking lot on the North side of the Shepaug River. Mr. Charles makes suggestions as to steps that could/should be taken prior to final approval of the alternate bridge. A copy of his letter is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Kelly Boling from the Conservation Commission:

Mr. Boling has moved to New York State and submitted his resignation by way of email to Susan Payne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

Motion:

To accept the resignation of Kelly Boling from the Conservation with gratitude for his years of service to the Town of Washington.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

* Appointment of Philip Dutton as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission:

Mr. Dutton has been an alternate on the Commission and Susan Payne has requested, with his permission, his appointment as a Regular Member.

Motion:

To appoint Philip Dutton as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission until 1/1/13.

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

* Appointment of Bradley D. Dutcher to the Parks and Recreation Commission:

Mr. Dutcher has written to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen expressing his interest in serving on this Commission. The member of the Commission discussed this appointment at their April 11th meeting and unanimously endorsed it.

Motion:

To appoint Bradley D. Dutcher to the Parks and Recreation Commission until 1/1/14.

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

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported on the following:

* Region #12 Facilities Committee, of which Mark is a member, has been working on the list of repairs needed to be addressed at the Region's three Primary Schools. The Committee will do a final list for approval. Repairs will be paid for from Primary School Capital Repairs Fund.

* FEMA/Flooding:

No FEMA funds will be received for the rain/flood event March 7-March 11.

* FEMA/Snow:

Connecticut was approved for FEMA funding for the snow event in January and Washington has submitted the preliminary paperwork. Bruce McLane, FEMA Project Specialist, met with Mark and Mary Anne Greene to review the additional information required. They, along with Kevin Smith, are compiling the figures and back-up material needed to receive reimbursement funds for a 48-hour period January 11-January 13.

* Town Road Repairs:

The annual grading of dirt roads has begun. There are still some trouble spots from the heavy rains – these are being prioritized and repaired.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Discussion of Region #12 proposed budget:

There is a 2.23 increase in the Region #12 proposed budget. The First Selectman and Boards of Finance of the three towns had urged a 1% increase. The question was posed as to whether or not the Boards of Selectmen and Finance wanted to make a collective statement regarding the disappointment in this proposed increase. Roxbury Selectmen have opted not to. Mark has been attempting to contact Bill Stuart re: Bridgewater. Washington's Selectmen discussed their position, noting that making a statement may not make a difference but felt that Washington has been extremely responsible in keeping any increase in their proposed budget to 1 to 1 ½ %. Motion: To have First Selectman Lyon draft a letter to the Region #12 Board of Education and Administration stating their disappointment in the 2.23% increase in their proposed budget, and, requesting again, that the Region attempt to keep their increase to under 2%. By Nick Solley, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

* Connecticut State Police contract Certification:

This has been discussed several times at past meetings, the Selectmen have agreed to sign the contract although disagreeing with the benefit/overtime charges to the Towns.

Motion:

To pass a Resolution that Mark E. Lyon, the First Selectman, be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Washington with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of one (1) Resident Trooper for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Renewal of lease for Town Beach House tenants and Old Firehouse tenant:

Both parties - the Town and the tenants - wish to continue their leases.

Motion:

To execute a new lease for the Town Beach House for an 11-month period commencing from May 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 with the current tenants for the current rent. All subsequent lease(s) will be for a 12-month period commencing April 1 through March 31 to coincide with the beach season.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To renew the current lease for the Upper Floor of the Old Firehouse for a two and a half month period commencing from April 15, 2011 through June 30, 2011. All subsequent lease(s) will be for a 12-month period commencing July 1 through June 30 to coincide with the fiscal year of the Town of Washington.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton.

Discussion:

the current lease was an "open extension lease". The Selectmen felt better to have a beginning and ending date.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Passing of a Civil War Resolution:

As a follow-up to Edwin Matthews attendance at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding the placing of a Memorial Monument to honor those who served/perished in the Civil War:

Motion:

To pass the following Resolution:

CIVIL WAR RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, April 12-13, 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the bombardment by South Carolina of Fort Sumter and the forced surrender of that fort by the United States Army which began our great Civil War; and

WHEREAS, this war opposed the States of the Confederacy and those of the Union which included the State of Connecticut and the Town of Washington; and

WHEREAS, thousands of citizens of our state contributed to the cause of the Union and remarkable sacrifices were made by citizens of our town, Washington, on behalf of the cause of the Union; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over one hundred residents of Washington served in this war on behalf of the Union and approximately thirty Washington citizens have been identified who paid with their lives in the Civil War and many descendants of those who served and who died in the Civil War still reside in our town; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we remember the sacrifice of those who gave so much for our country and for us; and

WHEREAS, the Selectmen of the Town of Washington,

RESOLVE, that the Town of Washington honor the service and sacrifice of those who served on behalf of the Union in the Civil War and especially the men who died in that War; and

RESOLVE, that a public subscription be launched to erect a suitable memorial to those from the Town of Washington who served and perished in the war. Said memorial to be placed at an appropriate place to be selected in the Town of Washington and to be dedicated on the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the surrender at Appomattox, Virginia which occurred on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, which signing brought an end to this War; and

RESOLVE, the Town of Washington congratulates the Gunn Memorial Library and Museum on the opening on May 1, 2011 of an exhibit remembering the contributions of citizens of the Town of Washington to the Union cause in the Civil War, which exhibit has been made possible by the preservation in our town of documents and artifacts of the Civil War;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Washington honor the sacrifices made by its citizens in the Civil War which helped save our country from itself and preserve the United States of America for all who follow.

ADOPTED this 14th day of April 2011 by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington.

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

Visitors:

* Jason and Carolyn Hyde:

Came to today's meeting to discuss parking issues on Wilbur Road (see letter attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk). The presented pictures and maps indicating where the employees of the Community Table are parking along Wilbur Road. The Zoning Enforcement Office has advised the Hyde's that this is a Town issue as opposed to a zoning issue as the vehicles are being parked in the Town's right-of-way and not on the restaurant property. Mark explained that when this issue was first brought to his attention he spoke with the manager of the restaurant who widened the shoulder at his request. The vehicles are no longer parking on the road itself. In addition to the parking issue, cars are speeding, turning in private driveways, etc. There was lengthy discussion about whether or not a permeable parking area could be constructed behind the restaurant, if a letter from the Town's attorney to the restaurant could be written, if No Parking signs could be installed, if additional parking could be available at an adjacent commercial property (with that owner's permission). The Selectmen were understanding of the resident's concerns and the changes this brought to their "residential" road. The Board of Selectmen, as the Town's traffic authority, agreed to discuss further, to contact the Town Attorney, and to look into possible legal solutions hopefully by the next Selectmen's meeting on April 28th.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary