

• **April 19, 2007**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, and Mark E. Lyon.

Press: Ann Compton - VOICES

Members of the public.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

• **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 5, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Mark Lyon asked that these minutes clarify his thoughts on the school issue. He agreed that the Board of Selectmen voted against the Inter-Municipal Agreement as presented, however, he personally felt that if the concept of Build-to-Suit were presented in another format, the Town of Washington should be willing to participate in any discussions. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications:

• **Cell tower emails:** Dick Sears explained that he was aware (and had received some) of emails being circulated on the cell tower proposal stating that there would be discussion of it at today's meeting. He gave a brief timeline summary of what has taken place starting with the application by Cellco (dba Verizon) to the CT Siting Council on 3/29/07 (docket #332). The Town of Washington has filed for "intervener status" which gives us a legal position for responding. An RF Engineer (Walter Cooper) has been contacted as well as the law firm of Murtha Cullina (who represented Washington in the 2002/3 Kimberly Farm cell tower application - New Milford). Dick has had a conversation with the Executive Director of the Siting Council (Derek Phelps) and has spoken with Dan McGuinness, Executive Director of the Northwest Council of Governments. He has spoken with the First Selectman of the Town of Cornwall. Dick feels that the Town position is not clear at this moment and that all parties need to work through the process, which can take 3-6 months. The Town will make statements to the Siting Council regarding what is important to the citizens of Washington - health, safety, welfare of citizens, local planning goals, Plan of Conservation and Development, Natural Resource Inventory, rural character, zoning regulations. The Town may want to challenge the need for a tower in Marble Dale for coverage - particularly in light of the possibility of towers being erected in Northville and Warren. Do we need an RF Engineer? Health effects are a serious concern to many citizens. Dick further explained that there are issues that are not "allowed" to be commented on to the Siting Council - i.e. radio frequency emissions, and an argument that cell service is not needed. The RF Engineer, Mr. Cooper, has advised that to deny Verizon the ability to provide coverage, if other carriers already cover the area, is to unfairly discriminate against them. We can request, however, that the Siting Council bring providers together on a tower, the need be established for this particular tower(s), in this location, etc. The Selectmen need to establish the costs - discuss and present to the Board of Finance. The discussion was opened to the public and comments and concerns were presented by Sandra Canning, Spencer Harding, Keith Templeton, John Hart, Debra Avery, Jane and Jack Boyer, Diane Dupuis, Susan Payne. These comments dealt mostly with the Siting Council's authority, the Telecommunications Act, the urging of the Board of Selectmen, and all commissions to be concerned with the protection of each and every citizen of the Town. The Selectmen stated they are open to advice from citizens, town commissions, private organizations and professionals, etc. and willing to work together on this issue. There is a need for more knowledge on health (human and wildlife) and agricultural effects, the distance covered by a tower, possible costs to the Town and very

importantly the feeling of the majority of townspeople. The Town will continue to be vocal and to monitor the status of the application with the Siting Council through its intervener status.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Beach Facilities Committee: Motion:** To appoint the following to the Town Beach Facilities Committee: Ray Reich, Chairman, Mark Lyon, Mary Weber, John Gillen, Peter Bonachea, Edwin Matthews, Betsy Corrigan, Dean Sarjeant, Terri Tibbatts, Kirsten Feldman, and Jaye Stuart. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Awarding of Revaluation Bid:** A memo has been received from Barbara Johnson, Tax Assessor, following her review of the bids received. It is her recommendation that the Town award the bid to Total Valuation Services. Their software is in place, will be updated, and presented the lowest quote. **Motion:** To award the bid for the town wide Revaluation to Total Valuation Services for \$126,000. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.
- **Request for Proposal for a master plan for Town Hall:** Dick explained this has not been advertised, as it may have to be in the format of an Invitation to Bid because of the possibility of State funds being received. Further information to follow.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Titus Road Committee:** Nick Solley reported that a committee is being formed to look into possible future uses of the old town garage site. Hopefully this will be finalized by the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. There was discussion of what the Town is planning to do at this point. Nick explained that the relocation of some materials to the new town garage needs to be done as well as cleaning up of the area. A "walking path" will be improved with the hope that more people will begin using the area while plans are being discussed. Mark Lyon expressed the importance of maintaining the gravel area to the river for Fire Department access. It was explained that the \$20,000 proposed in next year's budget is for restoration of the entire property and not just for the creation of a walking path.
- **Road Repair:** The Selectmen reported that the Highway Department was working on repairing the dirt roads that were damaged as a result of the northeaster that hit our area the early part of the week. The paved roads will then be checked and repaired as needed.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m. By, Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary