

• April 20, 2006

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

Press: Ann Compton-Voices, Sydney Schwartz-Waterbury Republican

Public: Addie Roberts, Sandra Canning, Joe Mustich, Ken Cornet

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To accept the minutes of the April 5th Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, to accept the minutes of the April 6th Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following correction under the Visitor section: "...that others are gaining access to the Lake (delete the word "illegally")", to accept the minutes of the April 13th Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Sandra Canning** asked to speak to the Board of Selectmen about the **process to have the Town pass a Resolution that deals with a political viewpoint** that would address the immediate return of our troops, censorship and impeachment. Several states, cities and towns have passed similar resolutions and she suggests Washington do the same. **Ken Cornet and Joe Mustich** also spoke on the issue stating he does not feel it is a Republican and/or Democrat issue but a citizen's issue. He has spoken to numerous individuals who find the actions of the current administration offensive. He feels there should be forums to allow people to have their voices heard. Dick Sears explained the Town Halls availability to the townspeople for conversations/informational meetings. Sandra was encouraged by this and would like to see the hall used to engage conversations on all sides of the above mentioned issues. If there is a strong enough feeling to pass a Town resolution, it should be brought before the Board of Selectmen for their approval to place on the agenda of a Town Meeting for a vote. If for some reason, the Board of Selectmen did not support this placement, a petition could be circulated and if enough signatures are obtained, it could be placed on the Town Meeting agenda despite the Selectmen's decision. Both Nick Solley and Mark Lyon voiced some concern about placing a politically charged resolution on a Town Meeting agenda but agreed to give the matter more thought. Dick offered to clarify the process by researching the State statutes and there was no objection to the Town Hall being used to hold these conversations.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Award of Truck Bid: Motion: To award the bid for a 2007 4 x 4 Heavy Duty Dump Truck to Marola Motors** for \$115,000. (\$130,000 minus \$15,000 trade-in). By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears. Nick Solley explained that the truck bid submitted by Hine Brothers did not meet the specifications needed. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Highway Maintainer Job Description:** As a follow-up to the discussion held at the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, it was decided to add under physical requirements, the submission of

a CDL medical card. **Motion:** To up-date the current job description for "Highway Maintainer" to say under Physical Requirements "Submit within 30 days of hire a current CDL medical card." By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Building Permit Fees:** Possible increase of fees was discussed at the last regular Board of Selectmen's meeting and continued at this meeting. Dick suggested the Board of Finance review the suggested increases and project what effect they would have on the Town and what it would do to the Building Official's (Bill Jenks) income. Bill's contract is up in October and has submitted a detailed report to Dick. Mark Lyon requested he see the report before making a decision regarding the increase of fees. He feels there could be a significant impact on people doing permitted work and therefore wants to make certain the increase is justified. Dick explained that Bill's suggestion of the increase was not to benefit him but to bring Washington into line with other neighboring towns. Nick Solley felt if the Town has not increased its fees in 6 years, this may be the opportunity to bring us into line with the other Towns. A change in the permit fees would have to be voted on at a Town Meeting. The agenda for the May meeting will be set at the next Selectmen's meeting and therefore Dick requested the Selectmen review Bill's report and make a decision by that time.

- **Motion: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda.** By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. Discussion - would have to do with a recommendation made by the Tax Collector. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Electronic bill paying option** for tax payers using the town website. Tanya Wescott, Tax Collector has recommended this explaining that citizens of Town could pay their taxes by credit card for a 3% fee or from their checking or savings account for 25 cents per transaction. There is no cost to the Town to set up a "Virtual Hosting" website with MCC Company. A button on our website to "pay taxes electronically" goes to a web page that looks like one of our website pages. Barkhamsted, Litchfield, Goshen, Haddam, Monroe, Morris, Pomfret, Sherman and other towns have already signed up. Both Mark Lyon and Nick Solley felt that the above mentioned towns be contacted. **Motion:** To provide an electronic bill paying option on the Town's website with MCC Company. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Mark Lyon requested the motion be amended to include "pending satisfactory recommendations from current users." The motion passed unanimously with the amendment.

- **Depot parking:** The Selectmen discussed again the scheduling of a meeting with the Zoning and Planning Commissions and the Board of Selectmen that would be open to the public inviting conversation regarding parking in the Depot. Addie Roberts, Chairman of the Planning Commission, stressed the importance of looking at the whole project not just in terms of adding more parking but in terms of traffic flow as well. Dick has spoken with Jim Donovan of Wilbur Smith Associates who was the lead consultant for the Depot Study and he feels we have the makings of a good plan. Addie agreed with this and suggested that a portion of the \$35000 that is in the budget for "follow up" from the initial Depot Study could possibly be used for an engineer. She urged the above mentioned meeting be held as soon as possible. Dick will speak with David Owen, Zoning Chairman, and get the date scheduled.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary