

• **April 5, 2007**

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

Public: Joe Mustich, Ken Cornet, Jack Field, Jack Boyer, Jane Boyer, Valerie Friedman, Barbara Johnson, Christopher Charles, Peter Tagley, Steve Waddleton.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: To include discussion of an Affirmative Action Statement and to extend a Request for Proposal for upgrades to the Town Hall. The motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes:

• **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 22, 2007 Regular Meeting of the board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

• **Opening of Revaluation Bids:** The following bids were received were a town-wide Revaluation which will include a complete interior and exterior inspection of each property:

- 1) Total Valuation Services of Waterbury, CT \$126,000.00
- 2) Vision Appraisal Technology, No. Borough, MA \$174,000.00
- 3) Tyler Technologies, Tolland, CT \$196,600.00

(plus \$5570 continuing support)

The Selectmen asked Assessor Barbara Johnson to review all bids received, to check if continuing support included, etc. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 19, 2007. Ken Cornet asked if there could be meetings with the public to discuss variations of value vs. what homes sell for. He feels there is often large discrepancies. Barbara advised there would be informational meetings throughout the revaluation process.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **Elementary Schools:** Dick Sears reviewed the subject of the Inter Municipal Agreement and the Build-to-Suit option. Following discussion, Dick summarized by stating he felt comfortable in stating that the Town of Washington would not participate further in an Inter Municipal Agreement as reimbursement from the State may not be available for the Build-to-Suit option. Dick was asking the Board of Selectmen for their opinion/support to relay to the Board of Education of Region #12 at a meeting this evening. Mark Lyon stated his opinion that for many reasons the Build-to-Suit option was not viable but felt strongly that Washington should not walk away from discussions with Roxbury and Bridgewater, that cost allocations are open to disagreement, but if they could be worked out it would be

beneficial to all concerned. Work should be continued within the system - other avenues explored. Mark does not feel that the "renovating to new" plan should be completely disregarded. Dick felt we could not continue on a plan that would not allow state reimbursement, that he does wish to work with the region. Washington has completed plans for Washington Primary School's renovate to new. Roxbury and Bridgewater should complete theirs and have them approved by the Board of Education. It can then be determined if any or all of the schools would qualify for reimbursement. Nick Solley expressed similar opinions - and has concerns regarding the difficulties when working with four parties - (Region and 3 towns) and feels the IMA would require more legal involvement and is actually an impediment. Jack Field summarized the position of the three towns and the Region's School Board throughout the IMA, Build-to-Suit, consolidated, etc. discussion process. Jack feels we can and should work through the Region and we do not need the IMA to do this. The best plan for three schools and the best plan for one school should be presented. Jack Boyer asked if all three primary schools in the Region are not "renovated to new," would there be state reimbursement. Dick explained this is unclear and there is no guarantee. **Motion:** To send a memo to Region #12 Board of Education from the Board of Selectmen advising them that Washington "does not wish to participate further in efforts to create an IMA to enable the Build to Suit concept." The Selectmen will maintain contact, continue to support, and work with all concerned to provide the best educational facilities. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Tree Warden Appointment:** Dick Sears announced that Owen Moore has been appointed by him to be the Town's Tree Warden. This appointment became effective April 1st and the term is indefinite. He will be attending training through the State. The Selectmen asked that the minutes recognize Bill Bader and express the Town's gratitude for his many years of service as Tree Warden.
- **16 Titus Road Committee:** Dick Sears explained that clean up of this property (old Town Garage site) has begun. Equipment is being moved to new upper garage at Blackville Road. Grading will be done and a walking path, "River Front Loop", created. The Selectmen will appoint a committee, comprised of representatives from various commissions and town organizations, to look at future uses of this site. Nick Solley has agreed to serve on this committee. Lenard Engineering, the company that has been monitoring the underground salt levels at the site, has proven that the "natural attenuation" process is effectively reducing sodium and chloride levels to acceptable levels. Dick said that none of the short-term work on this property will be affected by the DEP abatement order. He is in conversations with DEP to lift the order.
- **Affirmative Action Policy: Motion:** To renew the Town of Washington's Affirmative Action Policy Statement "to provide equal opportunities in employment to all qualified persons solely on the basis of job-related skills, ability and merit...and re-affirms my personal commitment to the Principles of Equal Employment Opportunity." By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **Request for Proposal Town Hall upgrades: Motion:** To request a "master plan" proposal for an upgrade/replacement of mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. Proposals will be due in the Selectmen's Office on May 3, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Ken Cornet - Town Maintenance vs. Town Projects:** Ken Cornet read into the record (attached) a response to an email sent by Joe Mustich from Dick Sears. Ken stated his dismay and concern over how long it took for the Town to plow Nettleton Hollow Road on March 16th (snow and ice storm). He and Joe Mustich felt that many people had a difficult time in getting home because of the lack of plowing/sanding in a very dangerous storm. Dick explained that safely is a major responsibility of the

Town and that residents are encouraged to call the highway department if they have a particular concern. Dick further explained that he had referred Ken and Joe's messages to the Highway Director after receiving them. There are often situations (equipment breakdowns, absence of a crewmember, travel time for private contractors, etc) that may, at times, cause a delay. Dick also asked that the original email sent to him by Joe Mustich be included with these minutes (attached) and asked that any responses received by Joe be forwarded to him so that "trouble spots" could be identified. This storm was a particularly difficult storm and all parties acknowledged that the Town is perhaps "spoiled" by the excellent service normally received. Chris Charles asked that the record show he feels that the Town does an excellent job in maintaining, and clearing, the roads and "nothing is perfect" 100% of the time.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary