

May 14, 2009

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.

Public/Visitor: Robert “Rocky” Tomlinson.

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

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 30, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Letter from George Mack regarding cell towers:

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Mr. Mack of 43 Buffum Road, Washington Depot. Mark read the letter into the minutes. In summary, the purpose of Mr. Mack’s letter to the Selectmen was “to urge you to use the influence you have to encourage the town and its various committees to bring wireless communication service to Washington.” Mr. Mack listed what he considers to be the important benefits of wireless communication including: safety, competitive communication services, and convenience. He cited reasons and examples for these and addressed the aesthetic impact as well. In conclusion, he stated “Just as Washington once made the decision to accept power lines in the interest of electric lights, and telephone poles in the interest of telephones, the time has come for the town to move forward and allow its residents the benefits of wireless services.” A brief discussion continued with Emergency Management Coordinator, Rocky Tomlinson, agreeing with Mr. Mack on all counts, put in particular stressing the importance of wireless communication for safety and emergency services. (A copy of Mr. Mack’s letter is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk).

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman’s Report: Mark reported:

* Silver Star Proclamation:

Several weeks ago the Board of Selectmen signed a Proclamation declaring May 1st as Silver Star Banner Day, the permanent and official day to honor the wounded and ill soldiers and veterans of the Town of Washington and the Nation. Silver Star Families of America was formed to make sure we “honor the sacrifice of the men and women in the Armed Forces who have been wounded or have become ill...” We have received notification from Silver Star Families expressing their gratitude and reporting that over 1200 proclamations were received.

* First Alert Test:

There will be a test of the Town’s First Alert System on Friday, May 15th. This is the system that would be used to notify residents of the Town of Washington of an emergency, severe situations and instructions. The announcement will give instructions to residents as to how they may add, or change, information in the database. For more information Rocky Tomlinson, Emergency Management Coordinator, may be contacted at 860-868-9942 or at rtomlinsonr@netscape.net.

* Plaza Pay Phone:

The company that installed the pay phone in the Depot has notified the Selectmen’s Office that they will begin to charge the Town \$20 per month (there has been no cost). As there is no cell service in the Depot,

Mark has approved this expenditure.

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Opening of Bids for Chipsealing:**

The following bids were received for approximately 55,000 gallons of oil used for chipsealing of town roads.

- 1) Gorman Group, LLC, Albany, New York \$2.29 per gallon – price to include asphalt and labor and equipment. Option with polymer: \$2.39 per gallon.
- 2) Seymour Sealing Service, Inc., Wallingford, CT \$2.41 per gallon (\$2.18 + \$0.12 chip spreader, + \$0.11 roller). Option with polymer: \$2.65 per gallon. (Note: offering 1% discount net 30 days.)

*** Discussion of Birch Hill Run sub-division:**

Nick Solley has spoken with Town Attorney David Miles who has spoken with Land Use Attorney Mike Ziska. According to counsel, when subdivision approval is given, there are rights that the developer gives up and the Town accepts – the road would be transferred to the Town once 50% build-out is achieved. As Birch Hill is at this 50% developed stage, the road (Chestnut Lane) should become a Town Road –this has not yet been done. The road needs to be accepted at a Town Meeting, approved by the Legislative Body. Discussion continued as to how to proceed. Options were discussed and Nick, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, will continue to follow up with David Miles.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Setting Agenda for the May 21, 2009 Annual Town Budget Meeting:**

Motion: To set the agenda for the May 21, 2009 Town Meeting as follows:

1. To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses and Transfers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
2. To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and expend any Federal or State Grants for and by the Town of Washington for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
4. To adopt, on behalf of the Town of Washington, Nondiscrimination and/or Affirmative Action Policies required under Connecticut General Statutes and all other related policies required for applications for Federal and State Grants for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
5. To amend Town Ordinance #511A “Waiving Property Tax Less Than \$2.00” Amendment.
6. To amend and approve the Lake Waramaug Interlocal Agreement. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: Mark explained that the Lake Waramaug Agreement has expired and some changes have been made to the original agreement as a result of discussions between the First Selectmen of Washington, Kent and Warren. The Agreement deals with the management of the aeration system, insurance, electricity, DEP permits and testing, etc. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

*** Robert “Rocky” Tomlinson:** See above.

Adjournment:

* Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen’s Secretary