

May 26, 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: Harry Wyant, Ed White, Steve Law, Phil Markert, Tony Bedini, Chris Charles.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 12, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the May 17, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

Purple Boxes have been hung in trees by the UCONN Cooperative Extension to trap Emerald Ash Borers to determine if they are in this area. They have been found in the Kingston, NY area and can have a devastating effect on ash trees.

Memorial Day Parades will be held on Monday, May 30th – 1:15p.m. in New Preston and 2:30 p.m. in Washington Depot. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony and awarding of the Stephen Reich Award for Exceptional Citizenship will be immediately following the Depot parade in front of Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

Washington Community Day, sponsored by the Washington Business Association will be held Saturday, May 28, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be displays, events, entertainment, food, etc. throughout the Depot at local businesses and in front of the Town Hall and Pantry.

Road Work: Mark and Kevin Smith, Highway Director, have taken a tour of the Town's roads, particularly those damaged by the severe winter and heavy spring rains. The Selectmen will try to meet with Kevin next week to review the situation and determine if our Highway Department can accomplish the large amount of work that needs to be done or if it would be more financially and time prudent to do the majority of the repair work and hire a paving company to assist. Nick Solley inquired about delaying the approved purchase of used paving equipment and/or suggested purchasing it and to hire a paving company to instruct our employees to assist with the learning curve time. All options will be considered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Opening of Requests for Proposal for Engineering Services on Findley Road and Mygatt Road:

The following Requests were received:

1) Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants, PC

Rocky Hill, CT

For Findley and Mygatt Roads: Base Fee: \$30,000.00

2) Milone & MacBroom

Cheshire, CT

Mygatt Road: Base Fee: \$41,035.00

Findley Road: Base Fee: \$4,900.00

3) BETA Group, Inc.

Hartford, CT

Mygatt Road: \$37,250.00

Findley Road: \$7,500.00

Plus anticipated direct expenses: \$250.00

Total Lump Sum Fee: \$45,000.00

4) Lenard Engineering, Inc.

Winsted, CT

Mygatt Road: Base Fee: \$52,500.00

Findley Road: Base Fee: \$7,750.00

5) WMC Consulting Engineers

Newington, CT

Mygatt Road: Base Fee: \$30,500.00

Findley Road: Base Fee: \$11,000.00

The Board of Selectmen and Highway Director will review, compare and award at the June 9, 2011 Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Update on proposed cell tower on Town Property:

Phil Markert reported that points have been outlined for inclusion/negotiation for the lease agreement with Verizon for the proposed telecommunications tower on town property. These include: 1) height – no more than 130 feet; 2) monitoring of emissions – by an independent company and would be done at the start of operation and any time changes were made in the equipment of any carrier on the tower; 3) maximum permissible exposure – not to exceed 2% of what the FCC considers to be the MPE; 4) stealth features – tree or monopole. Discussion followed regarding these points, dismantling and restoration if tower should be taken out of service, health issues and monitoring of emissions. Jim Brinton, in the interest of the Town doing its “due diligence”, inquired about available evidence that emissions from telecommunication towers may be harmful to one's health. Phil explained that there are many articles about “possible” health effects but nothing that has proven this. This would be a reason for limiting the emissions to as low as the Town is requesting. By having the tower placed on Town property, the Town can have input on this – if, however, a tower were to be placed on private land, it would not. Phil also

brought up the point that if the Town does not get a tower, businesses and economic development could be hindered. Phil will discuss these points further with Diane Dupuis and Susan Payne, Cell Tower Committee, and get back to Mark to schedule an appointment with consultant Dick Comi to fine tune and begin the lease negotiations with Verizon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Setting date and agenda for Special Town Meeting re: STEAP Grant:

Motion:

To schedule a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall to approve an expenditure of a \$150,000 STEAP Grant awarded to the Town of Washington for construction of a pedestrian crossing for individuals using Bee Brook Road and the Hidden Valley Preserve.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion:

Chris Charles asked several questions of the Board of Selectmen and Ed White and Steve Law of Steep Rock Association regarding last possible date of notifying DOT that the original pedestrian bridge as part of the traffic bridge would not be constructed, assurances from Steep Rock, his feeling that Steep Rock should have provided more information to the townspeople earlier, gone to Planning, Conservation, Inland Wetlands, etc. Following input from the Selectmen and Steep Rock representatives, the motion passed unanimously.

Region #12 Long-range planning:

Mark reported meeting with First Selectmen Barbara Henry and Bill Stuart regarding Region #12's developing a long-range plan. All three are in favor of this and want to be involved in the process and have agreed to back to their respective Boards of Selectmen and request their support and allocation of funds for a consultant. They have spoken with Education Connection for their input and to find out what is involved in developing such a plan. A consultant could be hired to work with the Towns, the Board of Ed and Region #12 Administration for an estimated \$15,000. Each Town would be responsible for \$5,000.

Motion:

To endorse the involvement of the three Towns in Shepaug Valley Regional School District #12 development of a long-range plan and to request an approval by the Board of Finance for an expenditure of \$5,000 for the hiring of a consultant.

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

Board of Education member, Tony Bedini, thanked the Board!

Visitors: No further comments presented.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:28p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary