

May 27, 2010

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley. James L. Brinton (arrived 6:05 p.m.)

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

Public: Valerie Friedman, Diane Dupuis, Chris Charles, Chris Collum, John Meeker, Kathy Gollow, Duncan Woodruff.

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

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following correction:

under First Selectman's Report, Titus Road Clean-up, 250 yards of topsoil should be 2500 yards.

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

* Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 26, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Brad Sedito:

Mark reported that he received an email from Brad Sedito, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, indicating that he would be resigning as he is not currently living in Washington as a result of the loss of his home to fire. The Selectmen thanked Brad for his 19 years of service on the Commission and when a formal resignation is received, an alternate member will be moved up to a full member. An alternate vacancy will then need to be filled.

* Housing Commission vacancies:

As a result of the Town Meeting, the ordinance creating the Housing Commission was amended so that three alternate members could be added. Interested persons will be sought.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Chipsealing:

Kevin Smith, Highway Director, is working on the list of roads to be chipsealed this spring.

* Titus Road Cleanup:

Grading has been completed, topsoil has been spread and some areas will be seeded.

* 108 New Milford Turnpike:

The Conservation Commission will be holding a public meeting on June 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Preston Congregational Church. The Commission is working on a stewardship plan and is seeking input from the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Appointment of Subregistrars to the Registrar of Vital Statistics (Town Clerk):

By State Statute, each local Registrar of Vital Statistics is required to appoint at least 2 persons as Subregistrars for the purpose of issuing burial or cremation permits for any death in the registrar's town when the town official is closed.

Motion:

To appoint (as recommended by Town Clerk Sheila Anson) Lissa Lovetree of Munson-Lovetree Funeral Homes, Woodbury, CT and Lawrence Lillis of Lillis Funeral Home, New Milford, CT as Subregistrars for the Town of Washington.

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

* Board of Selectmen approval of Rate Bill set by the Board of Finance for Fiscal Year 2010-2011:

Motion:

To approve the Board of Finance's setting of a tax of eleven mills on the dollar on the grand list of October 1, 2009. A Rate Bill was made in accordance with the vote of the Board of Finance on May 20, 2010.

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

* Hiring of Consultant for review of Cell Tower lease:

Mark explained that he, Nick Solley, Phil Markert of the Conservation Commission and Town Attorney David Miles met to discuss the proposed Cell Tower lease from Verizon regarding the installation of a tower on Town property on Blackville Road. David Miles reviewed the lease and felt there were some points that may not be in favor of the Town in commercial aspects. He recommended that the Town hire a consultant that has expertise with cell tower issues. An approximate cost will be gotten and the Selectmen will go to the Board of Finance for an ex-budget appropriation if necessary. The Selectmen, Town Attorney and Conservation Commission will work together in selecting this consultant. Diane Dupuis, member of the Conservation Commission and Chairman of the Cell Tower Sub-committee requested that she be included in all future meetings on this subject. Mark reminded Diane that he has continually notified her when materials and information

have been received, made them available to her and would continue to do so. He also explained that she, Susan Payne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, and Phil Markert, also a member of the Conservation Commission and Cell Tower Sub-Committee, had been notified about the meeting with David Miles and were asked, if they would like, to submit comments if they were unable to attend. They will continue to be "kept in the loop".

Visitors:

* Chris Collum suggested that the Selectmen speak to other towns that have cell towers on town property and review their leases. He voiced concern about spending funds on a consultant when the final document may be very similar to what other town's have. Mark explained Roxbury and Kent's leases were reviewed and that Attorney Miles had concerns for Washington that were not addressed in either. He also stated that the Selectmen felt it would be irresponsible not to solicit advice from those who are well versed on the subject and to be looking out for the Town's best interest. Valerie Friedman asked if

there were any time constraints to respond to the lease. Mark explained that once a technical report is filed (and this may not be done until Verizon receives a favorable response to the lease proposal) there is a 60-day period in which a public informational meeting is held, another balloon float scheduled, etc.

* John Meeker read and submitted three letters requesting information pursuant to the State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Act dealing with rental applications for the Lake Waramaug Beach House; employment applications for the positions of Riverwalk Maintenance person, Washington Fire Inspector and Highway Department employees hired in the previous two years; invoices and cancelled checks issues to contractors or sub-contractors who worked on Rumford Road, Wooster Road, Plumb Hill Road, Shearer Road and West Morris Road intersection. The Selectmen assured Mr. Meeker the office would provide the information requested.

* Duncan Woodruff asked about the duties of the Caretaker at the Town Beach. He explained that he and his wife were tenants of the Beach House when they were first married. They did not pay any rent and listed the duties they performed in return. Mark explained that the duties today are very similar and the new tenants are paying \$500 a month rent in addition to performing these duties. The Selectmen assured Mr. Woodruff that they would get him the information he requested on the duties of the caretaker.

* Diane Dupuis asked if the Boat Launch Inspector was provided housing. The Selectmen explained he is not and that he was offered the opportunity of continuing as the Caretaker with the increased rental amount in the new Beach House and he declined. The salary for the Inspector is a separate line item in the Town's General Fund Budget under the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Adjournment:

* Motion:

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:08 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Executive Session was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. and the Selectmen re-entered the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Adjournment:

* Motion:

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:52 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary