

May 9, 2002

First Selectman Elaine Luckey called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Present:

Selectmen: Elaine Luckey, Nick Solley, Harry Wyant

Guests: William Fairbairn, Esq.

Press: David Lombino, Litchfield County Times

Elaine Luckey made a motion to include subsequent business not included on the posted agenda. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Minutes: Elaine Luckey moved to approve the April 25 minutes as written. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Guests:

First Congregational Church - Ellsworth Apartments: Attorney Bill Fairbairn reported he had conferred with Town Attorney David Miles regarding his request that had been presented at the previous Selectmen's meeting to consider an abatement of property tax on the Ellsworth Apartments for a period of thirty years. According to CGS 8-215, the Town could establish an Ordinance to provide for the abatement in part or in whole of real property taxes on any housing used solely for low or moderate-income persons. Bill noted, however,, a motion had been passed at the May 2001 town meeting to allow the abatement of taxes on the River Woods Senior Housing project rather than establishing an Ordinance. He felt since the future of housing is such an important issue to the Town and since the revision of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development will address this issue, it would be in the Town's best interest to have time to study this issue in depth to review future possible development and determine whether abatement of taxes or donations in lieu of taxes would be most appropriate. He noted the legislative body of the Town had been positive in the past when considering requests of this type and asked the Selectmen to include this on the agenda for the May 23rd town meeting. Elaine Luckey made a motion to present this proposal for the abatement of taxes for a period of ten years for consideration at the May 23rd town meeting. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

HORSE: Attorney Bill Franklin of Cramer & Anderson has notified the Selectmen that the pre-trial for this case has been postponed until the first week in July.

SAMSON DRIVEWAY: Attorney Jim Kelly notified the Selectmen that the Samson's driveway will be relocated back onto their property and questioned what would be required to restore this area. The Selectmen agreed the two stone parapets should be removed, as well as the gravel, and the area should be restored to a natural wood lot.

WEBSITE: The Selectmen noted their appreciation of Rex Swain's efforts in revising the Town's website and getting it off the ground. The website may be reached at www.washingtonct.org.

BRIDGE PROJECTS: Lenard Engineering provided estimated costs for repairing four bridges as outlined in the long-range capital plan. These options include:

- The preparation of an initial evaluation and priority consultation: \$3,600, plus approx. \$100 for

direct costs such as mileage, printing, etc.

- The preparation of structural calculations to determine load limitations: \$1,200, plus \$100 for direct costs.
- The development of a list of construction items, quantities, unit prices, a project budget (including preliminary engineering services, construction costs, construction engineering and contingency), to determine whether the project is eligible for state or federal Local Bridge Program funding, to establish a project schedule, to list applicable permit requirements, and to prepare a concise report outlining findings and recommendations: \$2,400 per bridge, plus an additional \$100 for direct costs.

The Selectmen will review the proposal.

Appointments:

Shepaug Youth Ass'n.: Elaine Luckey moved to appoint Robin Hirschfield as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Shepaug Youth Association. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Ass't. Burning Official: Elaine reported she had appointed Vincent Ives, Jr. as the assistant burning official. A possible increase in compensation was discussed. Since the responsibilities of the burning officials may be changing, as well as the fact that information regarding open burning will now appear on the website, it was agreed to wait to determine if a change should be made.

Old Business:

Boat Inspection Ordinance: In order to provide more authority for the boat ramp attendant, as well as preserve the quality of Lake Waramaug, an ordinance has been prepared for inspecting boats being brought into the lake through the Town's boat ramp. ([Attached](#)) Town Counsel has reviewed this. Elaine Luckey made a motion to adopt this ordinance as drafted and present it for consideration at the Town Meeting on May 23. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

New Business:

Town Logo: A request has been made by Susan Payne on behalf of the Washington Citizens Scholarship Foundation to use the town logo of George Washington on their letterhead. It was noted departments of the Town of Washington have used this logo. While the Selectmen recognized the significant benefits provided by the scholarship fund, they also noted it is not under the Town's jurisdiction and is a private entity. This request will be considered further.

2002-2003 Budget:

D.E.P. Transfer Station Renewal Permit: Elaine Luckey moved to request that an additional appropriation of \$1,250 be included in the Town's 2002-03 General Fund budget to pay the application fee for this permit as required by the State. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Town Boat Area Fence: It was agreed by the Selectmen to request that an additional \$2,500 be included in the Nonrecurring Capital Fund budget for fence repair installation at the town boat ramp area. It was found that the fence and boat ramp improvements would be more expensive than originally anticipated.

These two items will be presented at the budget hearing.

Driveway: Nine Main Street, New Preston: The owners of property at Nine Main Street had been asked to revise their original driveway plan to eliminate the need to back onto the town highway. A revised plan had been received and was reviewed at the meeting. The sidewalk that is located at the front of the property runs along the roadway but partially extends over the front corner of the property. The Selectmen felt this sidewalk should be maintained and will confer with the road foreman. The owners will be consulted prior to completing an application for the driveway approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow
Selectman's Assistant