

• **June 15, 2006**

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

Press: Ann Compton-Voices, Rebecca Ransom-Litchfield County Times, Sydney Schwartz-Waterbury Republican.

Public: Ken Cornet, Joe Mustich, Rod Wyant, Dick Carey, Janet Wildman, Peg Addicks, Jim Brinton, Barbara Braverman, Betty Mullen, Valerie Andersen, Janet Buonaito, Sheila Anson, Mildred Pond.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 1, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Dick Sears welcomed all visitors.

Communications:

- **A letter from the Republican Town Committee** has been received by the Board of Selectmen submitting the name of **John Potter as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission.** Action will be taken on this at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting in two weeks.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **A letter from Reginald W.H. Fairbairn** has been received by the Board of Selectmen resigning from the Planning Commission effective immediately. **Motion:** To accept the resignation of Bill Fairbairn with thanks for his service to the Commission and the Town. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **"Interview" Barbara Braverman and Roderick Wyant III:** Candidates for the alternate positions on the Planning Commission, the Selectmen gave each the opportunity to discuss their qualifications, reasons for wanting to be on the Commission, answer questions, etc. The appointment of two of the four candidates will be made at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting in two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bio Diesel - WEC:** Dick Sears wanted to bring to the attention of the Board and the public the work that the Washington Environmental Council, Shepaug High School and The Gunnery are working on producing "Bio Diesel". This is being done by collecting "waste cooking oil" from area restaurants, the school cafeterias etc. At some point there was discussion of using small amounts as a test in one of the Town Highway trucks.

- **Tentative scheduling of Special Town Meeting:** Dick Sears explained that the Town Clerk had certified a petition as valid that requests holding a "Town Meeting to Introduce a Resolution of Impeachment against George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney". Dick read from the Connecticut General Statutes (Sec.7-1(a)) that states "Special town meetings may be convened when the selectmen deem it

necessary, **and they shall warn a special town meeting on application of twenty inhabitants qualified to vote in town meetings, such meeting to be held within twenty-one days after receiving such application.**"... (Sec. 7-1(b)): "No duty on the selectmen to call a meeting pursuant to a petition where object is unlawful, frivolous or improper. While the board of selectmen is required to warn a town meeting on petition of twenty inhabitants qualified to vote there is no duty to warn a meeting pursuant to such petition unless the board is reasonably certain that the object of the petition is lawful, proper and not frivolous." **Motion:** To warn a Special Town Meeting to Introduce a Resolution of Impeachment against George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney on July 3, 2006 at 7:30p.m. as requested by the petition certified June 15, 2006. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. **Discussion:** Selectmen Nick Solley began the discussion by stating his feeling that the Selectmen have always run a platform that deals with town issues - not national. He feels that over the last several years there has been divisiveness in the town and something like this may drive wedges even further between people. Nick feels that there are other channels, organizations, etc. to work with. Mark Lyon expressed similar feelings suggesting there is a constitutional process for impeachment - a system of checks and balances already in place. Neither selectmen would support a town meeting for the above stated purpose. Ken Cornet, one of the petitioners, explained that this is not to be looked at as a democratic or republican issue - there are signers of the petition from both parties. He further explained that by the Town passing such a resolution, it merely is suggesting to congress to look into the matter. Dick Sears asked if other communities have passed such resolutions and Ken explained that they had. Others in the audience expressed their opinions for and against the issue of the special town meeting and suggestions that a public discussion/debate of the subject matter was fine but should be done in a place other than the Town Hall. Dick Sears reminded the other selectmen to review the statute and asked them to make their decision. Nick stated he did not feel holding a special town meeting for the stated purpose was necessary and felt it to be "improper". Mark stated he was not "reasonably certain it was lawful or proper". Both Selectmen voted against the motion, therefore the motion failed.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:48 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