

• **June 17, 2004**

Present: First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Harry Wyant and Nicholas Solley.

Press: John Addyman - VOICES

Public: Peg Addicks, Don Brigham, Ed Frisbie - W.H. Rose; John Jungen - Bridge Haven; Herbert Prawius - Hine Brothers.

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

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 3, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors: See below.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: Motion: To re-appoint the following with terms beginning July 1, 2004: Barbara Johnson, Assessor, 4 year term; David Showalter, Building and Property Commission, 3 year term; Marguerite Purnell, Inland Wetlands Commission, 3 year term; Mark Picton, Inland Wetlands Commission, 3 year term; Anthony Bedini, alternate Inland Wetlands Commission, 3 year term; to appoint Kathryn Coe, alternate Inland Wetlands Commission, 3 year term; to re-appoint Phyllis Allen, Judea Cemetery Commission, 5 year term; Edwin Matthews, Lake Waramaug Authority, 3 year term; Robin Feret, Marine Officer, 1 year term; and Francis Valley, Marine Officer, 1 year term. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Opening of Bids for 2005 Dump Truck:** The following bids were received for the purchase of a 2005 Dump Truck: Bridge Haven, Milford, CT - price after trade in - \$87,468; Marola Motors, Torrington, CT - price after trade in - \$91,900; and Hine Brothers, Southbury, CT - price after trade in - \$93,398.93. Awarding of the bid will take place June 24, 2004 at 4:00p.m.

- **Opening of Bids for the sale of the Town's older Senior Van:** No bids were received. Further discussion will take place as to whether or not to go out to bid again. May also place the van at the new town garage with a "For Sale" sign on it.

- **Depot Sidewalk update:** Several weeks ago discussion took place regarding the Town "swapping property" with William Houldin and Bertram Read in order to maintain the sidewalk from the Ericson Building to Route 47 that crosses over to the Drug Store. Dick Sears explained the process has become too cumbersome for several reasons. The present idea is to put the sidewalk on what is already Town property parallel to the present sidewalk. The old sidewalk can be eliminated by the property owners. The State can be petitioned to move the pedestrian walk to line up with the new walk. Application may have to be made to ZBA for a variance after going to the Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Region 12 STEAP grant application:** Dick Sears notified the Selectmen he had signed a letter of intent, along with the First Selectmen of Bridgewater and Roxbury, to apply for a \$1.2 million STEAP grant for the total reconstruction and upgrading of the track at Shepaug. Dick explained that by doing this it would not jeopardize the Town's applying for future grants for projects we may want STEAP monies for. If the request to apply is approved by the State of Connecticut, the Region 12 office will be asked to

do the necessary paperwork and follow-up. The Superintendent and Business Manager have been contacted and informed of this proposal.

- **225th Anniversary Celebration:** The next event in the Town's celebration is the walking tour of Washington Depot, being led by Bill Bader, on June 26th at 11:00 a.m. Reservations can be made by calling the Selectmen's office. Dick praised the committee for doing a wonderful job on planning ALL events and said the August 28th parade and picnic should prove to be a very exciting day.
- **Paramedic Contract renewal:** Dick Sears has signed the contract for paramedic intercept for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.
- **Town Hall Landscaping:** Dick announced that The Village Improvement Society has agreed to pay for landscaping materials in front of the Town Hall. The plan is based on a landscape architect's design and the Town's highway department will do the planting. Many bushes currently in front of the building will be saved and moved to other spots on Town property. VIS will also pay for annual trimming and maintenance of the new plantings. Thank you to Peg Addicks for taking the time to come to the Town Hall to review the project.
- **Don Brigham re: Board of Education elections:** Don came to today's meeting to ask the Board of Selectmen to consider an idea put forth at the most recent Republican Town Committee - to elect members to the Board of Education by being placed on the ballot (using voting machines) at the Referendum vote in May or on Election Day in November (rather than their being elected at a Town Meeting). Don said a letter had been sent to the Selectmen (letter not received in Selectmen's office as of this date) merely asking the Board to consider the idea. Dick Sears asked Don if the other Towns in Region #12 have been involved in this idea - Don did not think so and felt the Washington RTC wanted to get this Town's feeling before approaching other towns. Several details would need to be worked out to make the change and it was felt that the elections laws needed to be looked into as the next step. The Selectmen will research this idea and respond to the RTC.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:10p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary