

June 24, 2010

Special Meeting

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Nicholas N. Solley.

Washington Business Association Members: Fran Kielty, Howard Rosenfeld, Kathy McGarry, Janet Bloch, Diana Gutierrez, and Valerie Sedelnick.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Fran Kielty, Washington Business Association President, thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to attend today's meeting. The hope is for continued communication between the Town officials and the local businesses on items of mutual interest and for each to receive feedback.

Discussion Summary:

- * Town Website: Ways to enhance the link between the Town web site and the WBA – complete listing of members, WBA as “agent”.
- * Employee Parking: Many business employees are now parking at the old town garage site and behind the Town Hall. Few areas to expand to at present but hopefully as the Town continues to abandon the old garage site, more spaces may be created. In meantime, lighting may be able to be improved especially for the winter months.
- * New Preston Public Bathroom: The Board of Selectmen worked to compile plans and estimates to have a public bathroom installed in the New Preston Boys/Girls Club. The approximate cost would be \$6500. The plan had been for the costs to be covered by the local businesses, the Town covering utility costs, etc. The project is currently on hold.
- * Texaco Gas Station: The Selectmen have had several conversations with the owner about the appearance of the empty site. He graciously did some cleaning up and is presently not interested in accepting other organizations or individuals offers of beautification. He wishes to be able to use or sell the property after remediation is complete.
- * Trees/Plaza/Brick Wall/Sidewalk: Litter, mulching, leaf clean up. Town does spring and fall clean up of the entrance area to the Plaza. A trash can may be placed by the telephone booth that could take garbage and recycling. Sharing of volunteer litter pick up, etc. and inviting others to do the same may be helpful.
- * Depot Cell Tower: Process continuing on possible Town property behind Highway Department on Blackville Road.
- * Town Economic Development Committee: To think about need, advantages for Town, etc.
- * Mill Race Road Project: WBA would like to discuss this more, however, mentioning that promoting existing businesses is the priority presently.

Mark Lyon commended the WBA on their activities, promotions, etc. and encouraged continued meetings/conversations.

Next Meeting: October/November 2010.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m., as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary

REGULAR MEETING

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Nicholas N. Solley.

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

Public: John Meeker, Chris Collum, Valerie Friedman, Wayne Hileman, Jack Boyer, Jane Boyer, Todd Peterson, Wayne Hileman.

Call to Order: First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

Motion:

To reappoint:

o Mark Showalter to Buildings and Properties Commission until 7/1/13.

o Stephen Waderton to Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/13.

o Roger Bohan to Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/13.

o Margaret Cheney to Inland Wetlands Commission (alternate) until 6/30/10.

o Nelly Condon to Judea Cemetery Commission until 6/30/15.

o Edwin Matthews to Lake Waramaug Authority until 6/30/13.

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

Motion:

To appoint Peter Bowman as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals until 11/11.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion:

Mr. Bowman is the longest serving alternate and has agreed to become a full member.

The motion passed unanimously.

There is presently a vacancy for an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported on the following:

* Chipsealing has been completed on Nettleton Hollow Road, South Street and Nichols Hill Road.

* Cell Tower Update: A \$10,000 ex-budget appropriation has been approved by the Board of Finance for the hiring of consultants. Mark, Phil Markert, and Blake Leavitt met with Dick Comey of Municipal Consulting Solutions to discuss the project. More research will be done by the Selectmen and members of the Cell Tower Committee on who to hire with the ultimate goal of doing what is in the best interest of the Town.

* Purchasing Ordinance/Requirements: In response to John Meeker's request for information on several Town road projects, state bid pricing and awarding of work, Tina Costanzo of the State Department of Administrative Services, was contacted by Mark who referred him to our Purchasing Ordinance (as we do not have a Charter). It reads: Section 10: The purchasing authority (Board of Selectmen) may waive formal bidding procedures when purchasing supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services that are equal to or less than competitive bids awarded by the State of Connecticut. Mr. Meeker asked if we do not go out to bid, how would we know we are getting the best price. Mark explained the benefit of hiring contractors, using vendors, etc. with whom the Town has built a relationship with. Valerie Friedman felt there were also benefits in taking advantage of lower prices provided by other contractors, vendors, etc. Discussion continued with Nick Solley used an example of annual road maintenance, using the same contractor for years that held the price for us, was dependable, etc. Chris Collum asked about several projects that are not considered regular annual maintenance that have occurred in Town and the same contractor has been hired on an hourly basis. Wayne Hileman asked about the policy as to what goes out to bid and what does not. Mark explained that the Ordinance specifies purchases over \$6000 must go out to bid and sales over \$3000.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Opening of bids for the Purchase of the old Police Boat:

No bids were received.

Motion:

To place a classified ad for the sale of the old Police Boat.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

* Valley Cab petitioning for providing service in Washington:

David Lill of Valley Cab Company, Plainville, CT, came to the Selectmen's Office to explain they currently provide service down to Litchfield and although they receive numerous requests to provide service in Washington, they are not allowed to do so without petitioning the State Public Utilities Commission. He requested that the Board of Selectmen and any other interested person(s) support their petition should we be notified or asked to do so.

* Resolution empowering the First Selectman to execute a contract with the Connecticut State Library:

Motion:

Be it resolved that Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents

Preservation Grant.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley.

Discussion:

the Town Clerk applies for this grant annually.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Proposal to record all Board of Selectmen's meetings:

Mark Lyon began the discussion explaining that several people have requested the Board of Selectmen's meetings be tape-recorded. He, personally, does not see a problem however, did ask in what format – tape, CD, MP3? Once meetings are recorded how long do the recordings need to be kept? These are questions to be looked into. Mary Anne Greene, Selectmen's Secretary, explained that a written record of motions and votes cast are what is required. She felt that already the minutes give more information than is necessary but does not have a difficulty in having them recorded. Nick Solley asked those present if they were referring to all meetings – for example, special meetings held to open a bid only. Following discussion it was decided to discuss again in two weeks when all Selectmen will be present.

* Request from the Housing Commission for an expenditure in the amount of \$1500 from the Affordable Housing Fund:

The Board of Selectmen have received a letter from Wayne Hileman, Chairman of the Housing Commission, recommending the B of S request an expenditure from the Affordable Housing Fund. Mr. Hileman explained that the funds would not be needed until there is an accepted offer for the Bronson property.

Motion:

To recommend an expenditure not to exceed \$1500 for perc and deep-hole testing at 272 Sabbaday Lane, once an accepted offer is received.

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

Visitors:

* Chris Collum requested the Selectmen consider requiring a "quorum" to vote on issues on Town Meeting Agendas. He explained his opinion that attendance at the Town Meeting at which the budget is approved and at which only 20-30 people vote does not appear to be a fair representation of the entire town. The Selectmen explained that plenty of notice is given about the meetings, Legal Notices are published, the sign on the Town Hall lawn, etc. – if people choose not to attend that is their decision. They further mentioned that there has been discussion about holding the Town Budget Hearing and the Town Meetings on a Saturday morning to allow weekend residents to attend. This would require a change to the Town's Ordinance that specifies when Town Meetings will be held. More discussion will continue on this subject. Todd Peterson suggested that those who feel there should be a larger attendance at Town Meetings could help by writing Letters to the Editor, etc.

* John Meeker suggested that bids, employment ads, etc be placed on the Town's website, local bulletin boards, etc.

* Jane Boyer and Valerie Friedman also suggested that more noticing of bids, job openings, etc. would be perceived as much more open.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.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