

June 9, 2011

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman James L. Brinton.

Public: John Meeker, Jason Hyde, Jack and Jane Boyer, Chris Charles.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 26, 2011 Regular Meeting and the June 2, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: Appointment of Ulrich Vilbois as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission until 1/1/13.

Susan Payne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission has recommended Mr. Vilbois's appointment to the Commission. He has written to Mark Lyon confirming his willingness to serve. Mr. Vilbois is not a registered voter and is in the process of becoming a United States citizen. In checking both the Town Ordinance and State statute, there is nothing stated that would prevent his appointment except that the Town seeks to maintain a minority representation on its Commissions. The Town Clerk is checking further with the Secretary of State's office. Motion:

To table this appointment until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 23rd.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton.

Discussion: Jim Brinton stated that after reading Mr. Vilbois's "bio" he had some reservations regarding his objectivity in regard to cell towers in the Town; did not support anyone being involved in government if not a US citizen; and, therefore, urged tabling.

The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported on the following:

Road Work:

Mark has met with Kevin Smith, Highway Director. A list of roads needing work is in the process of being prepared as well as the scope of work required for each of the roads. Comparisons will be completed regarding hiring work out or hiring "assistance" to our highway department.

Stormwater permits:

There are new DEP regulations regarding these permits, which are required at the Town's Town Garage and Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is slightly more complicated than the garage due to it's previously being a landfill. Mark has begun soliciting proposals from engineering companies to assist the Town in meeting the necessary requirements.

STEAP grant for Transfer Station:

Funds may be available through a STEAP grant for reconfiguration work at the Transfer Station. Some of the infrastructure is beginning to deteriorate and before repairs are done, this may be a good time to look into a new design because of the added services such as recycling trailers, e-waste, etc. Submission for this grant would need to be done by the end of June. Mark is currently working on this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Awarding of RFP for Engineering Services for Findlay and Mygatt Roads:

Five proposals were received. Mark, Nick Solley and Kevin Smith have individually reviewed. Since STEAP Grant funds are involved in the Mygatt Road project, there are certain DOT requirements that are not necessarily addressed in all the bids – particularly the two lowest. Mark also expressed his thought that the DOT should review. Motion: To reschedule awarding of the RFP at a Special Selectmen's Meeting on Wednesday, June 15th. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Visitors:

Jane and Jack Boyer inquired why the Town's income is not reported to the public at the Town's Annual Budget Meeting. Jane specifically mentioned the income from Selectmen's Receipts which includes transfer station fees, land use and building fees, beach and boat launch permits, police services, pistol permits, etc. and Town Clerk which amounted to over one million dollars. There is also the income from property taxes. Mark and Jim explained that the vote by the Legislative Body at the Town Meeting is only for the proposed expenditures for the General and Non-recurring Budgets. The Board of Finance has full knowledge and understanding of the Town's annual income and takes all this into consideration when setting the mill rate. Jack felt that in the interest of "full disclosure" the income should also be presented. Mark explained that although budgeted income has never been presented as part of the budget, he saw no reason why the information could not be made available.

Jason Hyde asked if there was any progress made on the parking issue on Wilber Road. His concern centers on the fact that employees of the Community Table park on the shoulder of the road, turn in resident's driveways, come and go and odd times, etc. He feels that zoning regulations have not been adhered to if parking for a commercial establishment is allowed on a residential road. He has not gotten any satisfaction from the Zoning Enforcement officer and has requested the Selectmen, as the Town's Traffic Authority, install no parking signs. The Selectmen have reviewed this with Mr. Hyde previously and have spoken to the manager of the restaurant in hopes of working out a plan that would be satisfactory to all parties. The owner of the abutting property has allowed for overflow parking for patrons and Mark will pursue allowing of employees as well. Mr. Hyde presented a letter, which is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk.

Chris Charles stated that Mark Lyon and the Selectmen had expressed their opinion that CGS 8-24 did not require the alternate bridge plan to go before the Planning Commission. Town Attorney David Miles, Planning Commission member Paul Frank also agreed with this opinion. The Planning Commission also agreed at its meeting. Chris had disagreed and admitted his error but felt there is sometimes "the letter of the law vs. the spirit of the law". Chris again stated his opinion that the bridge that will now be built in Hidden Valley does not address the safety issues that began the whole discussion of having a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the new DOT traffic bridge. He also advised the Town have David Miles write a letter to Steep Rock and that there should be a legal document stating that the park could never be closed to the public since public funds are being used for construction of the bridge. He also suggested that there be strict enforcement of the speed limit along Route 47 once the new bridge is completed. Jim Brinton stated that whether one agrees with the new bridge or not, the vote for the alternate bridge has been taken and received overwhelming support - the matter is over.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary