

## • August 11, 2005

**Present:** First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, Harry H. Wyant.

**Public:** Ken Cornet, Joe Mustich, Valerie Anderson, Susan Branson, Susan Schulman, Susannah Schultz.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To accept the minutes of the July 28, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To accept the minutes of the August 8, 2005 Emergency Meeting of the Board of Selectmen (to extend the date for the Invitation to Bid on the Church Street Improvements). By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

### **Visitors:**

- **Ken Cornet** attended today's meeting to voice his objection to a note received by him from Dick Sears. He asked that the note be read into the minutes: "Dear Ken: Your childish "Booing" of Representative O'Neil at the Depot Study meeting was way out of line, deeply disrespectful and far below the civility I would expect in public discourse. Your aggressive rudeness troubled me and numerous citizens and I hope you will display personal restraint in the future. There is room for protest and opposition to policies and opinions but your behavior seemed to cut through to a personal attack and slight to a public official. Do better in the future. Dick Sears". Mr. Cornet expressed what he feels to be his "right" to confront, his right to "boo". He asked if there was a public policy regarding "booing" that gave Dick the authority to write the note he did. Dick explained there was no such policy, that the note was a matter of civil discourse and respectfulness in a public arena. Joe Mustich added his opinion that if "people have a right to applaud; people should also have the right to boo."
- **Valerie Anderson:** Valerie asked for procedural clarification of calling a "special" or "emergency" meeting held on the telephone. Dick explained that when a decision needs to be made quickly and it is not possible to get the Board of Selectmen together in person, it is allowed to do so by phone. He offered to get back to Valerie with the specifics..

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- **Conservation Commission:** The Conservation Commission has prepared a memo for the Board of Selectmen and land use commissions regarding preservation of **Town-initiated open space**. It has developed a list of recommendations to establish a coordinated and clear process for reviewing and accepting conservation easements for the benefit of the Town.
- **Robin Grossman:** A letter has been received expressing the opinion that the **installation of cell towers in the Town of Washington** should strongly be considered and pursued for emergency communications. There was some general discussion about this subject - there has been a great deal of opposition in the past by some groups. Susannah Schultz, as an EMT, spoke on the benefits to the ambulance personnel if there were cell phone service in Town. Dick Sears said Rocky Tomlinson, our Emergency Management Coordinator, has spoken of this as a tool for emergency communication as well. The Board expressed its opinion that it may be time to again address the subject - inviting emergency personnel, citizens, etc. to a meeting in the not-too-distant future. Dick will write to Ms. Grossman.

- **Darcy Campbell:** A letter has again been received expressing concern about speeding off Route 202 onto **Christian Street**. Dick explained he has spoken with the State DOT who has suggested changing the "turn" onto Christian Street but the State has indicated they would not pay for this. It is not currently in the Town's budget to make this correction/change. Dick offered to follow up again with the State and stay in communication with Ms. Campbell.
- **Gaylinn Fast:** A letter has been received requesting the Board of Selectmen to consider placing signs on **Baldwin Hill Road** indicating "No Commercial Vehicles" and "Police Ticketing Area". Ms. Fast owns a B&B on the curve of Baldwin Hill Road just up from Route 202. She is very concerned about the speeding and amount of noise particularly from commercial vehicles she feels are using Baldwin Hill as an access route into the Depot. Nick Solley spoke briefly about Old Litchfield Road having a similar problem several years ago and the legality of placing such signs, what was suggested, tried, etc. Dick has spoken with Resident Trooper Sordi, he will look into the request further and get back to Ms. Fast.
- **John Payne:** An "Open Letter" that was sent to residents of the Town has been received regarding the application of the **Gunnery School** for it's proposed project on **South Street**. The letter was read into the minutes of the Inland Wetlands meeting last evening as well.
- **Cynthia and Tom Mitchell:** Another letter regarding the **Gunnery's proposed use of their land located on South Street**.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Opening of Bids for 2006 Ford F550:** The following bid was received:

- **Ray Seraphin Ford, Inc.:**

**Option 1:** \$65,971

**Less Trade In:** \$14,000

**Net Bid:** \$51,971

**Option 2:** \$54,083

**Less Trade In:** \$14,000

**Net Bid:** \$40,083

"Options" would be additional on both bids prices.

The Board of Selectmen will award the bid on August 18, 2005 at 4:00p.m.

- **Special Town Meeting: Reminder: August 25, 2005, 5:00p.m. Agenda:**

**Proposed Ordinance regarding taking of private property by Eminent Domain and Proposed Amendment to Open Space Land Acquisition Fund Ordinance.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Depot Firehouse Leases:** Dick explained present leases are up for renewal on 9/30/05. Discussion

followed regarding the Town's possible future need for additional space and moving some of its offices to the old firehouse. Susan Branson (Steep Rock) and Susan Schulman upstairs and downstairs tenants both spoke about their desire to continue in their locations. Susan Schulman particularly expressed her desire to stay in her location as she is hoping to retire in 5 years. She feels she has "contributed" to the Depot and the Town by having her business located here. The Selectmen listened and expressed the Town's need to do a "study" of town hall program and space needs. Dick assured the tenants they would at least give three months notice if the lease was not going to be renewed in September 2006. **Motion:** To extend a lease to both tenants for a one year period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 for a rent of \$770.00 each (with Steep Rock paying an additional \$50.00 a month or garage space.) By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

**Susan Schulman** requested 180 days notice.

- **Invitation to Bid - Fire Department Radios:** A delay was requested by the Town's Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator as further study is being done on the type of radios and the communication system with Litchfield County Dispatch.
- **Open Burning Official:** Vincent Ives has retired from this position and the Town thanks him for his many years of service. **Gunnar Neilson** has agreed to be appointed as our Burning Official. Hours of operation, how residents will get forms, etc. is being worked out and information will be sent to the public as soon as possible.
- **Resolution-Small Cities Grant: Motion:** Resolved: That the filing of an application by the Town of Washington in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, recessions, and revisions thereto, to implement project activities, if approved, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Washington. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Resolution-Health District:** Dick explained the possible formation of a Health District. Costs for this still need to be investigated. Presently the Town is ONLY investigating the formation of a district with New Milford, New Fairfield and Sherman. The State of CT will give the Town \$5000 to take this initiative and to pass the following resolution. **Motion:** Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen empower Richard C. Sears, and in his absence Nicholas N. Solley, to sign contracts and an of it's amendments hereto, on behalf of the Town, between the Town and the Department of Health successor agency, in order to investigate the feasibility of forming a Local Health District with the Towns of New Milford, New Fairfield and Sherman. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Transfer Station:** The cost of removal of Freon from appliances taken to the transfer station has risen greatly. In addition the Town has to pay for the removal of the appliance. Therefore, the fees for taking these appliances to the Transfer Station need to be adjusted. This will be discussed and voted on at the October Town Meeting.
- **Thank you Doug Smith** for the donation of a conference table for the Land Use Room!

**Adjournment: Motion:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary