

September 21, 2006

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

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES, Rebecca Ransom-Waterbury Republican, Jonathan Shugarts-Waterbury Republican.

Visitors: Joe Mustich, Sandra Canning, Ken Cornet, numerous members of the community.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Motion: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Dick explained that this had to do with going into Executive Session to discuss a possible municipal real estate transaction. Unanimously approved.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the September 7, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the minutes of the September 14, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Joe Mustich, Ken Cornet and Sandra Canning agreed to speak later in the meeting.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Motion:** To appoint Peter Bowman (Unaffiliated) as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals until November 2007. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Petition for Special Town Meeting:** Dick Sears explained that a new petition had been received with more than 100 signatures that had been certified by the Town Clerk, calling for a Special Town Meeting. **Motion:** To call a Special Town Meeting, as requested, to consider and act upon a resolution addressed to the Congress of the United States calling for the institution of Articles of Impeachment of the President. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. **Discussion:** Sandra Canning suggested that the petition, as it differed from the previous one submitted, be read. Nick Solley read the petition in its entirety. Sandra read a prepared statement explaining why the petitioners felt that the President of the United States had committed "high crimes and misdemeanors" which warrant impeachment. They, therefore, are submitting a formal request to give the townspeople the opportunity to act on a non-binding resolution. Valerie Andersen suggested the petitioners use other venues and that the opinion of Town Attorney David Miles be

adhered to. Joe Mustich pointed out that Attorney Miles' letter stated that the selectmen were not "obligated" to call the Special Town Meeting but he felt the issue could be debated and the selectmen could decide to have such a meeting even though they were not obligated to do so. A lengthy discussion followed with numerous members of the audience voicing their opinions, including: Kelly Boling, Helen Gray, Todd Peterson, Paul Frenkel, Jack Boyer, Arthur Banks, Rita Wilson, Mildred Pond, John Buoniauto, Diana Hardee, Dorothy Dechecco from Litchfield, Sara Davies, John McGarr, Al Avitable from Bethlehem, Don Brigham, Diane Dupuis, Ken Cornet, Georgia Middlebrook. The Selectmen thanked all those who spoke and entered into their own discussion. Mark Lyon stated that after spending a great deal of time listening to people express their political views, listening to opinions as to whether the petition is valid or not, he felt that the real issue is whether or not a Town Meeting was the proper venue to debate a national issue and a national policy. In his opinion, it is not constitutionally part of the steps in considering impeachment of the President and therefore he would not vote in favor of holding the Special Town Meeting. Dick Sears stated he has spoken with other First Selectman, has received legal opinions, spoken with petitioners and wants to honor their opinions and again would like to offer alternative ways to meet their goals i.e. "Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting", have a vote, record the numbers and then forward on the results of the meeting to the appropriate office(s). Salisbury held such a meeting where people were able to express opinions, debate the issue, etc. Dick stated he acknowledged the concern of the petitioners but agreed with Attorney Miles and felt the issue was "not a proper purpose of a Town Meeting of the Town of Washington". Nick Solley then stated he too had listened with great interest and emotion and that he endorsed many of the positions brought up for discussion today, however, his opinion not to go to a Town Meeting had not changed. Dick Sears called for a vote on the motion. The motion to call a Special Town Meeting was defeated unanimously by the Selectmen.

- **Historic Preservation Grant Resolution for Town Clerk:** Dick Sears explained that each year the Town Clerk applies for this grant and part of the application process requires the Board of Selectmen to approve this resolution. **Motion:** To adopt the following resolution: Resolved: That Richard C. Sears, First Selectman, or Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk, as his designee, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Washington, an application and contract with the State Library for an Historic Preservation Grant. Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk, is hereby designated as the Agent for making the application. By Richard Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Setting Agenda for October 3, 2006 Town Meeting:** **Motion:** To set the agenda for the October 3, 2006 Annual Town Meeting as follows: 1) To set the dates for the annual town budget hearing and meeting in May 2007; 2) To approve an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to complete the town garage improvements project; 3) To adopt an ordinance to establish an affordable housing fund; 4) To adopt an ordinance establishing citation procedures and fines for violations of zoning regulations; 5) To amend the Town's building fees ordinance; 6) To discuss and consider discontinuing a portion of Frisbie Road. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **Invitation to Bid for Heating and Air Conditioning upgrading at Bryan Plaza Firehouse:** Postponed to a later meeting date.

- **Highway Department position:** Dick Sears explained that the Selectmen have approved a change in personnel in the Highway Department. The amount, scope and nature of work has increased and changed. The position of Highway Director has been created. The Road Foreman job description has been changed. Roger Cannavaro will remain Road Foreman and he was

thanked for his 27 years of service. **Motion:** To approve the job descriptions of Highway Director and Road Foreman and to advertise for the Director position. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

- **Municipal Building Code Official Agreement:** Dick Sears explained that the Town's agreement with the Building Official will be renewed for the period 10/1/06 to 10/01/10. **Motion:** To appoint William Jenks, Building Official, until 10/1/2010 at the contract rate of 74% of building fees. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

- **CCM Expo-**October 3, 2006: Dick Sears announced he will be attending this year's conference and will be bringing three Shepaug High School students with him.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:12 p.m.to enter into Exeuctive Session to discuss a possible municipal real estate transaction. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Executive Session ended at 6:29 p.m. and the Selectmen re-entered the Regular Meeting.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:30p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary