

September 26, 2002

Selectmen present: Nick Solley (temp. chair), Harry Wyant, Elaine Luckey
Guests: Susan Branson, Director Steep Rock; Susan Schulman
Press: David Lombino, Litchfield County Times; Sarah Sparks, Republican American

Call to Order: Nick Solley called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. as Elaine thought she might have to leave early.

Guests: Susan Branson and Susan Schulman asked if they could have five-year leases in the Old Firehouse Building, instead of their current one-year lease. They explained their reasons. Among others is that Susan Schulman's business is international and to change the address would take quite a bit of time. Elaine explained why the Selectmen were reluctant to sign a five-year lease, as the Town, at some future point, might have need of that space for Police offices or further administrative offices. Elaine had spoken with the chairman of the Building and Properties Committee and been advised not to commit for too long a period. At this time the selectmen do not have plans to make a move. Selectmen agreed they were willing to sign a three-year lease and would offer the current renters the first option to renegotiate at the end of the lease. They would like to hinge the rental amounts with the current Consumer Price Index each year. Both renters seemed agreeable with that arrangement and asked for an agreement in writing. Nicholas Solley made a motion that the Town extend the rental agreement with the Steep Rock Ass'n. and Susan Schulman for the Depot firehouse at a rate corresponding with the CPI commencing October 1, 2002 and continuing through September 30, 2005, with the option to renew at the latter date. Elaine Luckey seconded the motion. All in favor. The current lease is \$700/month for Steep Rock and \$680 for Schulman, which is a 4.7% increase over the prior year.

Nick reported that Ray Reich, although on the agenda, was unable to attend the meeting.

Minutes: Motion to accept minutes as distributed by Elaine Luckey, seconded by Harry Wyant. Motion unanimously passed.

Communications: Elaine reported a letter had been received from Nicholas Mullane, First Selectman of North Stonington regarding an Amicus Brief being prepared to support the appeal of the towns of North Stonington, Preston, Ledyard and the State of Connecticut in the acknowledgment process of the Eastern and Paucatuck Eastern Pequot petitioners. The issue that will be argued in the Amicus Brief is the Bureau of Indian Affairs' use of the State of Connecticut's acknowledgement of the groups over the years to support the Federal acknowledgement of the two petitioners as one tribe. The purpose of the request was to get as many towns in Connecticut to sign on in support as possible. There was no fee requested at this time. The actual brief was not available at the time of the Selectmen's meeting; however, a commitment was needed by September 25th. A vote was not taken on the matter until a copy of the Brief is received; however, the sentiment was supportive.

Appointments and Resignations: There were none.

Old Business:

Bid Awards:

Mower: Nick reported three bids had been received and reviewed. He recommended the lowest bidder, Chatfield Power Equipment be awarded the bid at \$7,989.15 for a Skag mower. Elaine Luckey so moved, Harry Wyant seconded. All in favor.

Loader: Nick reported four loader bids were received and recommended Tyler Equipment's bid of \$61,861 for a Volvo loader, including the trade-in of our old loader. Harry Wyant so moved to accept this bid, Elaine Luckey seconded. All in favor. Nick reported the Town had been happy with our old loader and we would like to stick with the same kind.

Revaluation: Nick reported the bids for revaluation had been reviewed and the Selectmen had conferred with the tax assessor. Elaine Luckey moved that the bid be awarded to Leshner-Glending Municipal Services, Inc. for \$31,000 for the revaluation of all real estate on the Grand List of 2003. Additional service costs on computer services would be on an hourly basis. Harry Wyant seconded the motion. All in favor.

Asbestos Removal Bid: Nick reported that an invitation to bid had been extended until October 10, 2002 at 4:00 pm. Notice had been sent to papers and several recommended companies.

New Business:

Town Meeting: Nick announced that Selectmen had warned of the Town Meeting to be held on October 7, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. in Bryan Memorial Town Hall. The purpose of the Town Meeting was to set the dates for the annual town budget hearing date for May 8th, 2003 and town annual budget meeting for May 22nd, 2003. Elaine Luckey so moved, Harry Wyant seconded. All in favor.

Nettleton Hollow Road: Re: Property listed to: Arnold Herman, trustee for property at 328 Nettleton Hollow Road. Town had received a request from Richard Rosiello of Kent Horticulture to put some fencing within the Town's right-of-way along Nettleton Hollow. Elaine explained that she had conferred with Nick Solley and decided that the Town may need this space as it goes forward with renovations to the bridge across the Aspetuck River at this point. Elaine reported she had written to property owner, Mr. Arnold J. Herrman, Trustee for Starr & Company, owner of record, and expressed Town's denial of the request.

Storage Building at New Preston Fire House: Elaine Luckey made a motion to refer to the Planning Commission for its review a request from the Fire Dept. to add a storage building behind the New Preston Fire House in accordance with CGS 8-24. It will not be apparent from the front of the building and they will place buffering between Mygatt Road. Nicholas Solley seconded the motion. All in favor.

Gunn Hill Road: Selectmen felt that we needed more information before we could make any decision on this project. Pricing on materials will be obtained before they will proceed to the Board of Finance. This road has not been maintained in the winter; but since homes are being built on this road, a shared responsibility to upgrade the road is being considered.

Bridge on Nettleton Hollow Road over Sprain Brook: Elaine reported that Lenard Engineering had provided reports on four bridges and initial discussion with the Board had indicated that this bridge would be a priority for replacement. Lenard has been asked to proceed with Step 3 of their proposal to develop a list of construction items and estimate quantities, to research unit prices for each item from ConnDOT's database and similar projects, to establish a project budget for preliminary engineering services, construction costs, construction engineering and an appropriate contingency, to determine whether the project is eligible for the Connecticut and/or Federal Local bridge Program funding, to establish a project schedule, to list applicable permit requirements and to prepare a concise report outlining findings and recommendations at a cost of \$2,400. This project had been included with the proposed 02-03 budgeted capital projects.

Washington Housing Trust Driveway Approval: Preliminary driveway approval has been requested

by the WCHT for the proposed affordable housing project in New Preston. Lenard Engineering has been asked to review the proposal and Peter Talbot will review their findings.

Road Striping: Elaine reported lines will be repainted on some town roads over the next few weeks.

Newsletter: The issue of the newsletter was discussed and the general consensus was that in general we would like to have at least two issues per year. However, because it is already October, we would work on the next issue in the winter and have it out by the spring. Elaine reported Mary Anne had done some research as to costs per issue. Last Spring the cost for printing and mailing was \$2,338. Candy Korzenko had done the set-up work at no cost to the Town, but we did not feel she should be asked to do so again. Elaine reported she had spoken with her and that she had offered to do the work for half of what she would be paid on the outside. This would be a very generous gift to the Town, as she had done a superb job last year.

Street Lights: These have been reviewed by our evening constable. Consideration was given to reducing some on River Road, however, it was agreed to see how they might be needed by the River Woods residents for the time being.

Old Boat: Consideration is being given by the Lake Waramaug Authority whether this boat should be put out to bid or used as a back-up.

Motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Luckey
First Selectman