

# September 29, 2011

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

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

**Press:** Ann Compton-VOICES.

**Public:** John Meeker, Dick Carey, Lillian Lyon.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the September 20, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

## **Communications:**

\* CL&P is in the process of contacting municipalities regarding power outages, restoration of power, etc. during and after Hurricane Irene. Information and feedback will be provided to them as requested.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

## **First Selectman's Report:**

Mark Lyon reported the following:

\* FEMA Kick-Off Meeting:

Mark Lyon, Kevin Smith and Mary Anne Greene met with Gary LeBrecque, the Town of Washington's FEMA representative, this afternoon. This meeting serves as the Town's official Kick-Off meeting and the date from which various filing deadlines will be determined. Mr. LeBrecque will be meeting periodically with the Town to inspect damage, work completed and work projected to be done. Residents and businesses can still register by phone, on-line, or in person at the local FEMA office (Torrington Fire Headquarters, Water Street, Torrington) for damages and losses as a result of the Hurricane.

\* Town Meeting 10/3/11 will include an agenda item regarding the appropriation of funds for repairs necessary following the Hurricane. 75% of these costs will be reimbursed through FEMA.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

\* Awarding of Bid for Backhoe/Loader:

Each of the bidders supplied the Highway Department with a demonstrator. Highway Director, Kevin Smith, on behalf of the Highway Department, wrote a letter stating "after having the opportunity to demo backhoe/loaders from all of the respective bidders, it is the recommendation of the Department that the Case backhoe/loader submitted by F&W Equipment Corp. best suits our needs based on overall performance, visibility, operator comfort, and safety. In addition, Case equipment has a long standing history of providing quality equipment with excellent resale value..." Motion: To award the bid for the purchase of a Case 580 SN backhoe/loader to F&W Equipment of Orange, CT for \$80,307, with trade-in allowance of \$15,000. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

\* Review of Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations for Beach House Tenant/Caretaker Selection Procedure:

Mark explained that he had asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to begin work on a selection

procedure for the tenant/caretaker position at the Town Beach. They discussed it at their September meeting and Ray Reich has forwarded a “draft” to the Selectmen for their input. The proposal suggests advertising in a local paper, on the Town’s web site, at Washington’s schools and the firehouse and town garage. Applications would be submitted to the Selectmen’s office, reviewed and selected candidates would be interviewed by a selectman, two parks and Rec members, Parks and Rec Coordinator. At the Parks and Rec meeting, John Meeker suggested the use of an outside real estate agent. John stated that a point he felt important was a real estate agency would be able to provide the Town with a fair market value for rent and put a fair value on the work that is being asked of the caretaker/tenant. Nick Solley explained that two years ago, he had spoken with an agency that felt that \$1000/month was a fair rent for the property and duties were valued at \$500/month – therefore the rent was set at \$500. Discussion continued as to pros and cons of using an agency, how it could be set up - i.e. “broker protected”, perception of conflict of interest, etc. with Selectmen input as well as input from John Meeker and Dick Carey. It was also suggested that Town Counsel review the process. The interviews and selection would still be conducted by selected members of Parks and Rec and Selectmen as mentioned above. Nick Solley offered to work with Parks and Rec as a member of the Buildings and Properties Commission and will attend their next meeting. John Meeker asked if this was coming about because of a change in the current caretakers/tenants. Mark Lyon stated, “yes”.

**Visitors:**

\* John Meeker asked if there was any word on the proposed cell tower at the Highway Department. Mark Lyon explained that he had received an email from the Town’s consultant today and when all parties can agree on a date, a special meeting will be scheduled and will immediately go into Executive Session, as it will be dealing with a real estate matter. John also inquired about the Highway Director operating various pieces of equipment and the prudence of this. Mark explained that he is capable of operating all the equipment and as he is a “working highway director”, if he feels his services are needed to get the work done, he does and that is fine with the Selectmen. John asked about the Highway Director’s having a Town truck, stating it has been explained that this enables him to be out “checking” the roads and work that needs to be done. Mark explained this is the case 24/7.

**Adjournment:**

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:08p.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