

November 12, 2009

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

Public: Tony Bedini, Chris Charles, Jane Boyer, Jack Boyer, Walter Whitney, Wayne Hileman, Marty Meyers.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion:

To approve the minutes of the October 29, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following clarification: In the presentation by the Housing Trust it be noted that Housing Trust has written contracts/agreements with the consultant, architects, and engineers that should the application to the State be denied, the Town is not responsible for payment for their services.

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

Visitors:

* Denise Arturi – Judea Garden Report:

Denise attended today's meeting to thank the Town of Washington for its support of this project which did very well in its first year. Over 1400 pounds of produce were distributed to over 150 individuals and families in Washington, Roxbury and New Milford. Over 80 individuals and organizations donated time, services and money. It was determined to be a huge success and the Committee is looking forward to doing it again next year.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Plumb Hill Road Drainage Project:

is nearly 75% complete. Paving will begin the end of next week – weather permitting.

* Pay Phone in Washington Depot:

The Town had been charged \$20/month to maintain the phone in Bryan Plaza. Notification was received that it would increase to \$70 – The Selectmen's Office negotiated this fee to \$50, which the Town will continue for the present. In the meantime alternatives will be explored.

* Region #12/ECS Grant Monies:

The Finance Committee and Business Manager of Region #12 have agreed to make payments back to the Town over the next 7 months to cover the portion of the grant monies that has been going to the Region as opposed to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Housing Commission request re: an expenditure of \$110,000 from the Town's Affordable Housing Fund:

Mark explained that following the Housing Trust's presentation at the last Selectmen's meeting, he had some questions and concerns regarding their request for funding and how it should be requested. The Housing Commission, following a second request by the Housing Trust, approved to recommend an expenditure of \$110,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund on the condition that a written commitment of funding from the State of Connecticut (DECD) is received. Discussion followed between the Selectmen, Wayne Hileman Chairman of the Housing Commission and members of the Housing Trust board and the recommendation was altered, to everyone's satisfaction as follows:

Motion:

On the recommendation of the Housing Commission, the Board of Selectmen will request from the Board of Finance, an expenditure of \$110,000 from the Town's Affordable Housing Fund to the Washington Community Housing Trust for pre-development costs associated with the acquisition, development and implementation of Marbledale Meadows, 7 Mygatt Road, with the following condition: That \$25,000 be conveyed to WCHT to fund work required to complete their application to DECD and that the balance of \$85,000 be conveyed to WCHT upon their written receipt of a full funding commitment from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) sufficient to complete the project.

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

If the Board of Finance approves the request, the question of releasing the funds will be brought to a Town Meeting for approval by the townspeople. As this differs from the plan of action approved at the October 29th Selectmen's meeting the following was made:

Motion:

To rescind the motion made at the October 29, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen supporting a request of a \$20,000 ex-budget appropriation from the Board of Finance for the benefit of the Washington Community Housing Trust for pre-development plans necessary for an application to DECD regarding the development of Marbledale Meadows. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

* ECS Grant Discussion:

See under First Selectman's Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Housing Commission's approval of \$2,000 from the Town Affordable Housing Fund for an A-1 survey:

Wayne Hileman, Chairman of the Housing Commission, explained that the Housing Commission did a mailing approximately a year ago asking if anyone had any land they might consider selling to the Town for the purpose of affordable housing. Several responses were received and one offer appears to be a possibility.

The Commission and Estelle Bronson have signed a non-binding Letter of Intent regarding a portion of land from her property at 249 Sabbaday Lane.

The Housing Commission approved a recommendation of an expenditure not to exceed \$2000 from the Town's Affordable Housing Fund to be used for an A-2 survey of this parcel. If the request is under \$5000, the Board of Selectmen can approve without going to the Board of Finance or a Town meeting and does not have to go out to bid.

Motion:

To approve the recommendation made by the Housing Commission for an expenditure not to exceed \$2,000 from the Town's Affordable Housing Fund to be used for an A-2 survey of an interior portion of 294 Sabbaday Lane.

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

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary