

# November 13, 2008

*Minutes are subject to approval by 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, David Thomson, and Chris Charles.

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

**Motion:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Mark explained that this had to do with the State's DOT plans for reconstruction of the Bee Brook Road Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Minutes:**

\* Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 30, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

\* Flags:

The Republican Town Committee purchased a new American Flag for the Main Hall through the American Legion. The Legion donated a new State of Connecticut flag. Both were in place for Election Day. Thank you to both organizations!

\* CCM Conference:

Mark and three Shepaug High School students attended a CCM conference in Hartford. They attended seminars dealing with "future" municipal leaders, being members of boards and commissions, etc. All enjoyed the day and felt it was interesting and beneficial.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

\* WPS Lease:

Mark reported that the Boards of Selectmen of Roxbury and Bridgewater have approved an extension of their Town's leases for their Primary Schools with Region #12 until June 30, 2009.

\* Motion: That the Town of Washington agree to extend the lease for the Washington Primary School with Region #12 to June 30, 2009 with the condition the Region inform the Town of any work needed to be done prior to its commencing. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley. Discussion: The Selectmen felt that putting this condition into the motion would necessitate the Town's being made aware of work that needed to be done. Tony Bedini, as a member of the Board of Education and the Building Committee, expressed his agreement to this condition being put into the extension. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued on the Long Term lease and the cost estimates on work that needs to be done that Tony Bedini, Charles Boucher, etc. are working on getting. Tony, Charles, Paul Szymanski, Engineer with Howland & Associates, will be meeting with Mark Lyon on November 14. Information gathered will be brought back to the Region's Lease Committee to be addressed for the Long Term lease. Mark

also reported that Paul Szymanski has done a great deal of work on this project “pro-bono” but as the study went further and his firm’s staff was required to complete, there is now a bill for approximately \$1500. The Selectmen felt this work was necessary in order to proceed. There is approximately \$350 left from a previous study that had been budgeted and approved. The Board of Finance has also been kept aware of this work and its necessity.

\* Motion: To ask the Board of Finance for an ex-budget appropriation of approximately \$1150 to pay Howland & Associates. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Mark also reported that he has received word from one individual who is interested in serving on the committee to look into the de-regionalization of grades K-5. The three towns in the Region agreed to each appoint two people to serve on this committee. Washington is looking for one more.

\* Bee Brook Road Bridge:

Mark explained that at the Public Hearing that was held by the State’s DOT regarding the replacement of the Bee Brook Road bridge, there was a request, with a great deal of support, to have a pedestrian bridge included that would connect the parking area to the trail on the other side of the river at Hidden Valley. The State has returned a proposal agreeing to do this, which also states that once the pedestrian portion of the bridge is completed, the Town of Washington would take over maintenance and liability of it.

\* Motion: To accept the proposal from the State of CT DOT to construct a pedestrian bridge at the Hidden Valley/Bee Brook Road Bridge. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

\* 2009 Meeting Dates for the Board of Selectmen:

The Selectmen agreed to the schedule prepared for 2009 dates. These will be recorded with the Town Clerk in compliance with the FOI requirements.

\* Old Litchfield Road resident’s petition:

A petition with numerous signatures of Old Litchfield Road residents has been sent to the State’s DOT requesting a STOP sign be installed on Route 109 at the Blackville Road intersection. Currently there is none and a sign on Blackville Road informs motorists that cars “coming from the left do not stop”. The residents feel this would make for a safer intersection and will also help address the problem of speeding on Old Litchfield Road. Jim Brinton has spoken with a State Engineer regarding this request. Mark has received notification that the State will review.

## **VISITORS:**

\* David Thomson – Grant for invasive species removal:

David, as a member of the Town’s Inland Wetlands Commission attended today’s meeting to request the support of the Board of Selectmen to apply for a grant with the State’s Department of Environmental Protection for removal of Japanese Knotweed in the area of the athletic fields, walking path at the River Walk Park. David has also presented this at the IW meeting and it was well received with suggestions for refining the application. David explained there would be no cost to the Town of Washington and that the necessary “matching funds” of 25% would be requested from the Village Improvement Society, Conservation Commission, private individuals, etc.

\* Motion: To support the application for the grant explained by David Thomson. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

\* Chris Charles spoke of the work being done by Marty Connor, Land Use Consultant, and the importance of addressing any suggestions, recommendations he will have. He urged the Board of Selectmen to take these seriously and to act accordingly. Chris also spoke of an editorial he had read about the Town's revaluation and a possible decrease in the grand list. The Selectmen did not feel that at the present, this would be the case. There was then general discussion of mill rates, housing, etc.

\* Tony Bedini requested that any candidates for the opening on the Inland Wetlands Commission be asked to attend at least two meetings. Chairman and other commissioners would have the opportunity to speak with them and to ascertain their willingness to attend seminars, trainings, site visits, etc. as there is a large time commitment in order to be an effective commissioner. The Board of Selectmen agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

\* Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.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