

• **November 16, 2006**

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

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

Public: Valerie Andersen, Sheila Anson, C.J. Kersten.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 2, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the November 6, 9 and 13, 2006 Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Valerie Andersen** inquired if the November 13th Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was legally noticed and it was explained that it had been filed with the Town Clerk within the legal time frame. In light of the news that the Town of Bridgewater and the Bridgewater members of the Board of Education are suing the Board of Education, Valerie then expressed the opinion (as an individual, not as a member of the Board of Education) that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance of Washington should begin considering various options that may include de-regionalizing with Bridgewater and re-regionalization with only Roxbury. Bridgewater students could attend Shepaug as tuition paying. Dick Sears explained that the process would be very complex and legal opinions have been and would continue to be sought on such a subject.

Communications:

- **Letter from Tommy Morse:** The Board of Selectmen has received a letter from Tommy regarding the poor condition of the track at Shepaug High School. He asked for the Selectmen's support in pursuing options for its repair. Dick offered to write a letter to the Board of Education.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Motion:** To appoint Todd Catlin as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals (moving him up from an alternate) until 11/09. This will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ed White. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **To amend the awarded bid for roofing project at New Preston Firehouse: Motion:** To amend the awarded bid for re-roofing the New Preston Firehouse to Diamond Roofing for \$15,000.00. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon. Nick explained that this was due to the fact that there were oversights on the part of the bidder in the original bid. The amount of \$15,000 is still lower than the other bids submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Extend an Invitation to Bid for Playground Equipment:** Sheila Anson, Parks and Rec Chairman, and C.J. Kersten made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the equipment proposed for the River Walk Tot Lot and the Nick Platt Field. C.J. has been part of a committee that has met several times with Lisa Easter, Parks and Rec Coordinator, and formulated a list of equipment they feel will be appropriate for the locations. **Motion:** To extend an Invitation to Bid for playground equipment for the River Walk Tot Lot in Washington Depot and the Nick Platt Field in New Preston, CT. Bids will be accepted until 4:00p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2006 at the Selectman's Office. Specifications may be obtained from the Selectman's Office. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.
- **Depot Study-recommendations from the Planning Commission:** Dick presented an excerpt from Planning Commission minutes that outlined a list of priorities for the Depot as a result of the Depot Study. These were: 1)River Loop Property Walking Trail; 2)Engineering Study and Plan for Bryan Plaza and the Surrounding Area; 3)Implementation of Traffic Calming Measures for Routes 47 and 109; and 4)Pedestrian Bridge Across the Shepaug River to Washington Primary School grounds. There was discussion on each of the points, with Selectmen suggesting ways of accomplishing these goals. Some of the work can be done "in-house" (i.e. cleaning up of River Loop area), some will require engineering input (i.e. the Plaza-parking, entryways, etc.) Mark Lyon stated he feels there is a great deal of interest in the "problems" encountered in the Depot such as parking, safety, traffic flow etc. and these should be addressed first - such things as pedestrian bridges and railings, should be studied further at a later date.
- **Recommendation for expenditure from Affordable Housing Fund:** The Board of Selectmen has received a recommendation for expenditure from the Affordable Housing Fund not to exceed \$125,000 for partial funding of the Potter Farm Proposition. This recommendation was approved on November 13, 2006 by a unanimous vote of the Washington Housing Commission. **Motion:** To accept the recommendation of the Housing Commission to expend \$125,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley. Valerie Andersen had some questions regarding the vote of the Housing Commission as it did not post this as part of their agenda. Dick advised her to speak with the Commission directly about this point. Valerie also felt that appropriate boards and commissions should bring their findings and opinions to informational meetings. There was also the suggestion that the Washington Community Housing Trust, as part of this project, should have information available regarding their financial health, etc. Points were taken and noted. The motion passed unanimously
- **Oil Consortium 2007-2008:** Information has been received regarding the Town's joining in the Arum & Associates LLI oil consortium for 2007-2008 year. We have been a part of this for several years, it has worked well and saved the Town money.**Motion:** To sign the agreement to join the oil consortium for 2007-2008. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

- **Potter Farm Proposition:** The Selectmen announced the following dates for information meetings on the Potter Farm Proposition:

11/28/06-7:30p.m.-Bryan Memorial Town Hall

12/14/06-7:30p.m.-St. Andrew's Church-Marble Dale

1/6/07-10:00a.m.-Bryan Memorial Town Hall

A date for a Town Meeting has not yet been set. Mark Lyon feels that it is very important that members of the boards and commissions, and Housing Trust be present at these meetings.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:41p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary