

## • **November 30, 2006**

**Present:** First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectman Mark E. Lyon

**Press:** Ann Compton - VOICES, Jonathan Shugarts - Waterbury Republican

**Public:** Valerie Anersen, Ken Cornet, Joe Mustich, Tom Osborne

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 16, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

### **Visitors:**

- **Valerie Andersen** asked to speak regarding the Lake Waramaug Agreement, Boat Launch reconstruction and last evening's Inland Wetlands meeting. She urged the Selectmen to consider what she feels to be a conflict between the Agreement and the scope of work. She also voiced her opinion that the work on the new launch may be counter to the "Heritage Lake" status of Lake Waramaug (the first lake in CT to be designated as such) and suggested further investigation of the Heritage Lake Act 99-135. Valerie also asked the Selectmen to withdraw the Potter Farm Proposition. She feels there are too many unanswered questions i.e. Will the Housing Trust be taking out a mortgage, bank note, bond? What is the Town's relation with the Trust? Is it the best use of the Town's resources? She also feels the Housing Commission may be subject to FOI action as the meeting at which they approved the expenditure of \$125,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund, was not noticed properly.
- **Ken Cornet** also voiced his opinion that he had serious concerns and questions regarding the Potter Farm Proposition. He has heard it will cost approximately \$1 million to clean up the degradation of the land. Ken also asked the Selectmen if they had knowledge of a \$4 million offer that had been given to the Potter's as a "starting offer" prior to their beginning discussions in Executive Session. Both Dick Sears and Mark Lyon stated they did not know of this other offer that apparently had been turned down by the Potters. At a later time they did learn there had been an offer that "did not work out". Dick voiced his opinion that he felt this proposition was in conformity with several of the Town's goals including preserving farm land and open space and providing affordable housing and was therefore worth pursuing. Dick also explained that one of the parcels the Town was interested in had been used as pastures and or for growing corn and may not have the contamination problems Ken was referring to. The remaining sites (where any contamination may be) would be the responsibility of the Potters.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Opening of Bids for Playground Equipment:** The following bids were received:

**1. Ulti Play Parks and Playgrounds, Inc.** Guilford, CT

Nick Platt Field \$39,698.00

River Walk Tot Lot \$28,030.00  
Shipping \$ 1050.00  
TOTAL \$68,778.00

**2. M.E. O'Brien & Sons, Medfield, MA**

Nick Platt Field \$40,000.00  
River Walk Tot Lot \$46,435.00  
Discounted TOTAL for both \$81,604.00

**3. Game Time Co, Spring Lake Heights, NJ**

Nick Platt Field \$46,275.00  
River Walk Tot Lot \$39,608.00  
Discounted TOTAL for both \$85,424.00

The bid will be awarded at a Special Selectmen's Meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 5:00p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

• **Homeland Security Grant-Memo of Understanding:** Dick Sears explained that each municipality in the State receives monies from the Federal government for Homeland Security. In order to receive it a Memo of Understanding needs to be signed and a Resolution made by the Board of Selectmen. **Motion:** To enter into an Agreement with the State of Connecticut and to pass the following Resolution: **Resolved**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and **Further Resolved**, that Richard C. Sears, as First Selectman of the Town of Washington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. There was minimal discussion with Joe Mustich asking if there were "any strings attached" to this Agreement. Dick explained that the monies (\$4788 for Washington) are usually used for updating communication systems and emergency preparedness. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Town Meeting - Potter Farm Proposition:** Dick explained that he would like to postpone any scheduling of a Town Meeting on this subject and he and the other Selectmen, after speaking to townspeople, were leaning towards holding a referendum instead of a Town Meeting. Dick further explained that the Planning Commission would be meeting next week and as this proposal deals with the acquiring of municipal property, they need to review and report to the Board of Selectmen. The Conservation Commission will also weigh in on easements. Both Dick and Mark would prefer to get these reports, give the people of Town more time to ask questions, think about it, etc. No action taken today. Valerie Andersen again asked about the Housing Commission's following proper procedures. Dick advised her to speak with that Commission directly.

**Adjournment:**

• **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary