

December 13, 2007

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton, and Richard C. Sears.

Public: Chris Charles, Tom Osborne, Pamela Osborne, Sara Osborne, Sheila Anson.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and designated Sheila Anson as the substitute clerk.

Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 29, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton, and unanimously approved.

Communications:

Addie Roberts, chairman of the Planning Commission, sent a letter to First Selectman Lyon stating that if the Board intends to go forward with the Depot Study, the FEMA Floodplain will have to be addressed. Mark mentioned that Dick Sears has done some research on this, as well as resident Dick Carey, and this issue will be reviewed during the budget process.

Dick Sears shared a memo from Mike Ajello, Enforcement Officer (see attached). Mike satisfactorily completed a special course in Zoning Enforcement and was issued a Certificate as a Certified Zoning Enforcement Official. Congratulations to Mike!

Appointments/Resignations:

Inland Wetlands Alternate vacancy. Susan Jahnke and Roger Bohan have both expressed interest in the alternate vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Commission. There is also the possibility of another vacancy of an alternate position. The alternate currently serving as verbally stated he would resign but has not yet put that in writing. He has not attended any meetings for the last several months and Dick feels the Board should accept these absences as a formal resignation and thank him for his service. Jim Brinton felt the alternate should be contacted to notify him this would happen at the next Selectmen's meeting and give him the opportunity to put his resignation in writing.

Motion: To approve the First Selectman contact a current alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission to explain that the Board would appreciate a written letter of resignation by the next regular meeting and, in lieu of that written resignation, a verbal notification would be accepted with thanks for his years of service on the Commission. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears, and unanimously passed.

Discussion continued regarding the current alternate vacancy and the process of appointment. Keeping boards and commissions balanced is important; state statutes require minority representation. Dick said that, typically, when a vacancy occurs, the First Selectman contacts the chairman of that board of commission and the town committee chairmen for their input. He also felt that a person interested in serving should submit a brief biography and be articulate as to why they are interested in the position. Jim felt it wasn't necessary to require a biography if the Board knows the person. Chris Charles, speaking from the public, said it should be across the board what is expected from each candidate and not case by case. Mark thought a couple of paragraphs would be sufficient. The Board agreed to table this appointment to the next regular meeting and get a biography from both Susan Jahnke and Roger Bohan.

Review of vacancies on Planning and Historic District Commission; a regular member on the Planning

Commission has chosen not to be reappointed and a regular member of the Historic District Commission, who is also the chairman, has resigned effective December 31st. Mark has spoken to Addie Roberts, chairman of the Planning Commission, about moving an alternate to a regular position thereby creating an alternate vacancy, and he will also contact the other members of the Historic District Commission for their input. Check party affiliations; with the upcoming presidential primaries in February, some unaffiliated electors have registered with a party.

First Selectman's Report:

Rental of upstairs space by a resident. A resident has requested the rental of the upstairs space for a commercial business. There is no written policy found but the Board agreed that the use of public space for private gain is not acceptable.

Primary School lease negotiations. The town lease with Washington Primary School is in effect until June 2008. The Board of Education is considering putting a line item in their budget to set aside money in their "Recurring Capital Improvement Fund" to provide for Capital Maintenance Projects in the three leased facilities. This fund and the projects would be controlled by the Board of Education.

Other. Mark was contacted by a Frank O'Ross who had previously talked to Dick about mapping systems. Dick explained Mr. O'Ross is a salesman for a vendor that sells software for maps.

The Board discussed what should be done with the old Engine #7 now that funding for a new engine is in place. The Town has budgeted \$225,000 and the Washington Volunteer Fire Department has budgeted \$50,000 which leaves \$10,000 to be raised. If the Town sells the truck, the proceeds would go in the general fund, if the WVFD sells the truck for over \$10,000, they could use \$10,000 toward the new truck and the remainder would go back to the Town. Not unprecedented for a fire company to sell equipment on their own. The Board decided to go this route and see how it works but, in the future, set a policy and go forth with it.

Motion: To approve the Board of Selectmen's recommendation to the Board of Finance that the Town turn over the disposition of the old Engine #7 to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department and that the final offer for the purchase of that engine would be approved by the First Selectman. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears.

Discussion continued that this issue should be published first for the public to review and add to the next regular meeting of the Board. The recommendation, if approved at that meeting, would then go on the Board of Finance's agenda for January. Motion withdrawn by Mark Lyon.

Old Business:

Mailbox and Winter Operations Policies. Table to next meeting after the highway department has experienced a couple of storms.

New Business:

2008 Board of Selectman Meeting Dates and Time. Mark discussed with the Board the possible time change from 4:30 to 5:30 to allow more residents and guests to attend, especially those from out of town. He has discussed the change with Mary Anne prior to the meeting.

Motion: To approve the 2008 Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates and the time of 5:30 PM. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon, and unanimously passed.

Visitors.

Town Clerk Sheila Anson explained that the Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application for this year has been approved by the Connecticut State Library. The grant payment in the amount of \$7,000 will be processed when the Board of Selectmen approves a certified resolution, and a nondiscrimination certification, and then the First Selectmen will sign the grant contract. Sheila will use this year's grant to continue restoring vital records.

Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application

Motion: To approve the following resolution. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton, and unanimously passed.

RESOLVED: That Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Motion: To approve the following resolution. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton, and unanimously passed.

RESOLVED: That Washington hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes 4a-60(a)(1) and 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.

Chris Charles, continuing his follow up to the Walker Brook Road development discussion, reported that the Town of New Milford, through a farm preservation group who are actively involved in preserving farms, are planning to preserve five farms from the Kimberly Farm to the Chapin Farm. Chris also spoke of the issue that occurs when a member of a board or commission moves out of town. Should they continue as a member or stay on board as a consultant? This prompted discussion of defining resident vs. non-resident on boards and commissions and the responsibilities of various committees. He also updated the Board on the Washington Primary School Building Committee and the Region #12 Building Committee, and it was the consensus of the Board to add this item to the agenda of the first meeting in January, not in two weeks.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 5:45 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. By Dick Sears, seconded by Jim Brinton, and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the Regular Meeting from Executive Session at 6:05 PM.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dick Sears, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted.

Sheila M. Anson

Clerk (substitute)