

December 15, 2005

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

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES, Dan D'Ambrosio-Waterbury Republican

Public: Doris Matthews, Bob Papsin, Jules Finker, Bob Papsin, Rex Swain.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 1, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 12, 2005 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Dick Sears explained to those present that the representative from Verizon had contacted him and would not be able to come to a meeting of the Board of Selectmen until January.

- **Rex Swain** attended today's meeting to follow up on his letters to Dick Sears regarding the **transcript of the May 19, 2005 Town Meeting** that have yet to be transcribed. He asked Dick if he was telling the truth when he has replied that they would be done. Dick assured Rex that they would be and further explained that he had spoken to the clerk who had said they would be completed after the New Year. The tape is available and the motions have been filed with the Town Clerk - meeting the legal requirement. Rex then asked about the November 15, 2005 Special Town Meeting - no minutes have been sent to him for posting on the website. Dick said he would follow up to see if they had been filed with the Town Clerk. Rex requested that the "First Selectman be more attentive to these issues". Nick Solley expressed his opinion that there was no reason not to take the clerk at her word and feels they will be completed by the end of January. Mark Lyon suggested a policy be written that is acceptable legally, outlines the procedure and time lines for submitting and would prevent this from happening again in the future. Rex also voiced his disappointment in the minutes from the meeting with the Land Use Chairmen.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Motion: To make the following appointments and reappointments:**

*reappoint **Susan Payne and Joseph Gitterman** as regular members of the **Conservation Commission** - term to 1/1/09.

*reappoint **Daniel Sherr** as an alternate member of the **Conservation Commission** - term to 1/1/09.

*reappoint **Elizabeth M. Rives** as an alternate member of the **Historic District Commission** - term to 1/1/09.

*appoint **Ronald Chute** as a regular member (moving up from an alternate member) of the **Historic District Commission** - term to 1/1/11.

*reappoint **Sheila M. Anson and Christopher Kersten** to the **Parks and Recreation Commission** - term to 1/1/09.

*reappoint **Sarah E. Gager** to the **Planning Commission** - term to 12/21/10.

*reappoint full-time **Constables Caleb Shrophshire, Patrick J. Kessler** and part-time **Constables John Wyshynski, Herbert Furhman and Thomas Accousti** - term to 12/31/06. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

As a point of information the following vacancies exist: Board of Finance alternate, Inland Wetlands alternate, Planning alternate and Zoning Board of Appeals alternate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Code of Ethics:** Dick Sears explained that the draft he distributed to the selectmen was the result of work done by the Ethics Subcommittee of NWCOG and LHCEO. It deals with public officials and employees. The Board of Selectmen will review, make changes and/or suggestions, adopt a "draft" and then present at a Town Meeting. At today's meeting there was a review of a few key points: public officials and municipal employees should act on behalf of the public and represent the common good. They need to be careful not to give the appearance of acting for one's own good; "Conflict of Interest" was another point discussed - On the Land Use commissions there can be a fine line between placing someone on the commission who can share his expertise and having a possible conflict of interest. Dick Sears is hoping that having a document such as this will clear up any misconceptions. Points of the draft will be continued to be reviewed at the upcoming meetings.
- Dick Sears reported he had been contacted by the **Verizon Representative who will be attending a meeting of the Board of Selectmen in the near future (hopefully January)**. As was mentioned at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting, Verizon has contacted the Town of Washington regarding the placement of a cell tower on the New Preston Firehouse property. The Board of Selectmen has **not** given an opinion on this proposal but rather has invited Verizon to come to provide information and answer questions. Dick reported he has received numerous communications from townspeople who are both against and in favor of a cell tower being constructed within the Town. **Jules Finker** suggested that a "comprehensive plan" for cellular service be created. He also feels the federal government has developed strict standards that must be met. Dick invited Jules and anyone else interested to bring their issues to the public meetings. **Bob Papsin** asked if the towers in New Milford and Bantam could increase the amount of "energy" they produce to cover the dead zone in between them. Bob also mentioned that perhaps the old radio tower on the top of Mount Bushnell could be considered as an alternative site.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Motion:** To approve the following **meeting dates for the Board of Selectmen for 2006:** January 12, 16; February 9, 23; March 9, 23; April 6, 20; May 4, 18; June 1, 15, 29; July 13, 27; August 10, 24; September 7, 21; October 5, 19; November 2, 16, 30; December 14, 28. All meetings, unless otherwise posted, are at 4:30p.m. in the Land Use Room of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **Holiday Letter:** Dick informed the Board that he, Pat Murphy of New Milford, Bill Stuart of Bridgewater, and Barbara Henry of Roxbury has signed a Letter to the Editor that has been sent to area newspapers dealing with teenage "risky behavior" - concentrating on underage drinking.
- **Special Selectmen's Meeting:** Scheduled for 12/29 at 9:00a.m with the Town's Road Foreman. This will be in Executive Session as it will be dealing with personnel issues.
- **Regular Selectmen Meeting: Motion:** To cancel the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen for December 29, 2005 at 4:30p.m. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously

approved.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:20p.m. as there was no further business to discuss.
By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary