

• **December 16, 2004**

Present: First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nicholas Solley and Harry Wyant.
Public: Mark Lyon, Betsy and Tom Burke, Jane DeMado, Kitty Hunt, Jaye Stuart, Ben Zabel, Tara Cherniske
Press: Elf Lefferts, Litchfield County Times.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Tom Burke asked a question about bonding that had to do with questions in the recent Planning Poll that was recently mailed to all households in Washington. Dick Sears explained that bonding could be used not only for housing but also for open space purchases.

Appointments/Resignations: Motion: To make the following re-appointments:

Conservation Commission: Phillip Markert-Regular, Elizabeth Corrigan-Regular, Linda Frank-Alternate.
Historic District Commission: Alison Picton-Regular (pending her acceptance), Ronald Chute-Alternate.
Parks and Recreation Commission: Joan Gauthey-Regular, Holly Haas-Regular, Joe Fredlund-Regular.
Planning Commission: Dimitry Rimsky-Regular. Police: Ronald Dorazio-Full-time, Caleb Shropshire-Full-time, Patrick Kessler-Full-time, John Wyshynski-Part-time, Herbert Fuhman-Part-time. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Underage Drinking Ordinance:** Dick Sears opened the discussion explaining that such an ordinance would deal specifically with the possession of alcohol by a minor and the issue of hosting underage parties in private homes. Resident Trooper Sordi was not able to attend today's meeting but has expressed his being in favor of such an ordinance. Parents and school administrators have expressed similar approval. There are questions as to how much authority an ordinance would give the police when it comes to parties in private homes and Trooper Sordi will be explaining this at a later meeting. Dick further explained that today's discussion would not result in a vote of any kind. The subject is being brought up to educate the public and to raise the awareness and severity of the issue of minors drinking. Keeping our young people safe is of utmost importance. Jaye Stuart, Kitty Hunt, Jane DeMado, Ben Zabel all spoke of the merits of having such an ordinance in place - i.e. taking away the ambiguity of parent's liability, giving parents the support they may need by saying to their children, "It's the law!" Jaye Stuart further explained the contract student athletes and parents must sign which states they will not use alcohol and/or tobacco. Other Towns have passed similar ordinances and the NW Council of Governments is researching the Town's ability to enforce the ordinance with or without a state law that deals with the same issues. Further discussion took place and the consensus of opinion was that there should be further discussion with the public, police personnel and legal professionals.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Elderly Tax Relief Program** for elderly and disabled homeowners. A committee was formed several weeks ago to look into a program that could reduce real estate taxes if requirements are met. The committee will present their draft document to the Board of Finance on Monday, December 20, 2004. The contents of the draft include a suggestion that the Town put aside \$20,000 per year to be divided

equally among those who qualify. There may be as many as 30-40 candidates. Dick would like to go on record as stating he is very much in favor of this program and it's becoming an ordinance. Nick Solley spoke of the hope that if more people are interested and meet the requirements, that in the future more money may be put into the budget. It would not apply to renters. Thank you to committee members Betty Hinkley, Betty Mullen, Lyle Whittelsey, Brigid Davidson and Pam Collins.

- **Transfer Station Operation:** Dick Sears had a meeting with Butch Wyant of Wyant & Company who runs the Transfer Station. Problems such as people not paying after they "dump" were discussed as well as possible solutions. The Selectmen will go to the Transfer Station to further discuss suggested changes.
- **2005 Meeting Dates: Motion:** To accept the submitted listing of dates for Board of Selectmen Meetings. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:25p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary