

# December 30, 2004

**Present:** First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nicholas Solley and Harry Wyant.  
Public: Dan Sherr, Rocky Tomlinson, Chris Charles.  
Press: Akiko Matsuda, Waterbury Republican

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

**Approval of Minutes: Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 16, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

## Visitors:

- **Robert Tomlinson reported on the NWCOC Emergency Planning Task Force Spending Plan.** "Rocky" explained this is a result of the Homeland Security monies that have been projected to state and local governments. The State of Connecticut felt that the regional Councils of Government were the best vehicle to determine where the monies should go. The NWCOC (of which Washington is a member) and Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials are working together. Representatives were appointed to form the Emergency Public Safety Task Force. Discussions took place with local health departments, selectmen, police, fire and EMS personnel. The result is a preliminary spending plan for using the FY04 Homeland Security Grant monies. This plan will be presented to the COGs next week. Rocky further explained that at this time there is no expenditure to the individual towns. Once the State notifies the local COGs/Towns that it has the money, requests will be submitted to the State - the State will do the purchasing of supplies, materials and distribute to the Towns - March 2005? At present there would be no budget implications to the Town of Washington. Perhaps in a few years there may be some costs associated with maintenance, replacement of supplies, etc. Rocky distributed a detailed summary and the Selectmen asked that the minutes reflect their gratitude to Rocky for serving on the Task Force and the countless hours he has given.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- **WPS Pavilion Project:** Dick Sears updated the Board of Selectmen on the progress the Parks and Recreation Commission has made in their fundraising efforts for the Pavilion Project. The Commission has asked for the support of the Selectmen to approach the Board of Finance for an additional \$20,000 (ex-budget appropriation) once they meet their fundraising goal. The Selectmen will support this request.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **Town Planning Process/Poll Report:** Dan Sherr came to today's meeting to present the findings of the planning poll which was mailed to all Postal Patrons in the Town of Washington. There were 330 responses submitted by mail and electronically on the website - an excellent response. Dan summarized the responses noting interesting trends and possible conclusions. For example: preserving open space was "very" important to 57% of the responders. Minimizing increases in property taxes scored the second highest in importance. Construction and renovation of the elementary schools is broadly supported. Providing diverse housing generated a divided view. Community projects were recognized as "somewhat important". Chris Charles questioned the drawing of some conclusions as he did not feel we received a wide variety of responders. Dan felt this poll did represent a cross section of the population and the

purpose was to gain an understanding of what the townspeople want. The results will be presented to various groups (Board of Education) and studied further. Dick Sears asked that the minutes reflect a "thank you" to Dan for his work on this survey.

- **Proposed Discontinued Road Regulations:** The Chairman of the Road Discontinuance Committee (Kelly Boling) has drafted proposed regulations re: road discontinuance. There is a question as to whether this should fall under zoning regulations or should be regulated by a Town ordinance. The proposed regulations deal with both discontinuance and abandoning of Town roads. The Selectmen felt they did not have a chance to study Kelly's document carefully enough to make any comments at today's meeting. The Selectmen will review and make their comments at the next meeting.

**Adjournment: Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:50p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

**Happy New Year!**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary