

# December 8, 2011

*Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.*

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Dick Carey and Susan Jahnke.

**Press:** Rick Harrison – Waterbury Republican, Ann Compton – VOICES.

**Public:** Tony Bedini, Gary Fitzherbert, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Lillian Lyon, Janet Wildman, Nick Solley, Ray Reich, Sheila Anson.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the November 22, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Susan Jahnke and unanimously approved.

## **Communications:**

\* Letter from Highway Director Kevin Smith:

Kevin has written the Board of Selectmen requesting funds to continue cleanup efforts and debris removal as a result of Storm Alfred. For the preliminary kickoff meeting with FEMA, it was projected this cost would be approximately \$220,000. A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for this evening to ask for the Town's approval of an ex-budget appropriation from the Nonrecurring Capital Fund in this amount. Kevin also explained in his letter that the Highway Department has been working diligently with several local contractors to clean up downed trees and limbs within the Town's right of way – the job is not yet completed. Although the Highway Department would like to aid residents with cleaning up debris from their yards, this additional volume of work cannot be handled. Residents are reminded that fallen limbs, etc from their yards are their responsibility. Debris that has been chipped may be brought to the pile in the parking area at the Washington Primary School. Advanced Construction of New Milford will be taking the chips – the Town will only be billed for trucking. A copy of Kevin's letter is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk.

## **Appointments/Resignations:**

\* Resignation of Susan Jahnke from the Board of Selectmen:

Mark Lyon reported that he received a letter from Susan Jahnke on December 2, 2011 indicating she would be resigning from the Board "for personal issues". The two remaining members of the Board of Selectmen, per State Statute, will appoint Susan's replacement. The Democratic Town Committee has offered to make a recommendation by next week. The Selectmen, however, are free to choose and appoint anyone of their choosing as long as he/she is a Democrat. This appointment is to be made within thirty days. Both Mark and Dick Carey both told Susan they were looking forward to working with her but wished her well in her future endeavors, and thanked her for service.

## **First Selectman's Report:**

Mark Lyon reported the following:

\* Storm Alfred Cleanup is proceeding slowly. Recent priority has been given to preparing the roads for

winter – patching, repairing, etc.

\* Tompkins Hill Road – culvert work has been completed and the road should be paved this week or next.

\* Hurricane Irene FEMA paperwork is ongoing.

\* Storm Alfred FEMA kickoff meeting has been held and the Town will have the same representative as for Irene– hopefully simplifying both processes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

\* Awarding of Bid for Clearing and Grubbing at Town Highway Garage:

Motion:

To award the bid for clearing and grubbing at the Town Highway Garage to A.J. Nordland for \$4,200.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion:

This was the low bid - Mark explained to the Selectmen and those present that this work would be entirely separate from his sub-contracted work with the Town.

The motion passed unanimously.

\* Awarding of Bid for Electrical Work at Town Highway Garage:

Mark explained this work would be to transfer power for the fuel pumps from the lower garage to the upper garage. Wright Electric submitted a bid for the specified work and added an “option” for tying the two garages together with one meter. Following discussion with the Buildings and Properties Commission, it was thought prudent to pursue this option. Eagle Electric was given the opportunity to include a quote for the same option. Because it would be under \$6,000 the Town was not obligated to extend another formal invitation to bid. With options included the two bid amounts were:

Wright Electric - \$5,675

Eagle Electric - \$4,923

Motion:

To award the Bid for Electrical Work at the Town Highway Garage to Eagle Electric for \$4,923.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Susan Jahnke and unanimously approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

\* Approval of 2012 Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates:

Motion:

To approve the dates for 2012 for the Board of Selectmen Meetings as submitted (a copy of which is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk)

by Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

\* Recommendation of Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee for the new Beach House Tenant/Caretaker: Parks and Rec Commission member and Sub-committee chairman Ray Reich, explained to those present that several meetings were held to review the six applications received and to interview the four chosen applicants. Following the interviews the sub-committee unanimously recommended two of the candidates (a couple) to the Parks and Rec Commission at their meeting on December 5th and it was agreed to recommend the same to the Board of Selectmen for their final approval. The Selectmen voiced their support of the process and agreement with the selection following discussion of their qualifications,

recommendations, references, etc. Motion: To approve the selection of the Beach House Tenant/Caretaker Sub-committee and appoint Christopher Papsin and Leah Massapust as the new Tenant/Caretakers. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Susan Jahnke. Discussion: Susan Jahnke voiced her overwhelming support as a member of the Sub-committee. The motion passed unanimously.

\* Designation of Supervisor of the new Beach House Tenants/Caretakers:

Mark Lyon explained that in the past there have been questions as to whom the tenants/caretakers should report to, contact with concerns, questions, etc. It is his feeling that as the beach and boat launch areas all fall to Parks and Rec Commission for budgeting, etc., supervision should be by the Commission and as Ray Reich has been the member overseeing the beach for the past several years, it should most likely continue to be done by him. Sheila Anson supported this recommendation. Following more discussion, it was decided that Ray would oversee all personnel issues, compliance with lease conditions and performance of duties and responsibilities. Any physical problems, repairs, etc. with the beach, beach house and boat launch area should be referred to the Buildings and Properties Commission.

### **Visitors:**

\* Ann Compton, VOICES reporter inquired about the Special Selectmen's Meeting held earlier today to discuss an AT&T telecommunications tower on Town property. Mark Lyon explained that throughout the negotiations with Verizon, he had been contacted several times by John Lawrence of Centerline Communications (contracted by SAI who is a "Turf vendor" who is contracted by AT&T). Initially AT&T's interest was to be a co-locator on Verizon's tower. As Verizon has notified the Town that construction of a tower in Town is no longer in their development budget, Mark contacted Mr. Lawrence to see if AT&T would be interested in constructing their own tower. John came today along with a site engineer to look at the site, maps and to discuss general issues such as set-backs, zoning regulations, access to the site, height of the tower, etc. Mark explained that no formal commitments were made at today's meeting however it was felt that AT&T may make at least a preliminary proposal within the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Reminder:**

Special Town Meeting this evening at 7:30 p.m. to accept Birch Hill Run and Chestnut Lane as Town Roads and to approve an ex-budget appropriation of \$220,000 for clean up and debris removal following Storm Alfred.

### **One More OLD BUSINESS item:**

\* Bryan Plaza Tree Planting Project:

Mark Lyon explained that Tom Osborne, Tree Warden, and the Tree Committee submitted a plan for replacing the Norway Maples in Bryan Plaza as well as other plantings along the border with the Texaco Station property. The Board of Selectmen had approved this plan and the Committee secured a grant and raised private funds. Conservation Commission has requested a moratorium on the project until the Texaco Station is sold and asked the Town to consider trimming and cabling to extend the life of the trees. Quotes from Arbor Services and Gary Lord have been received - \$3,500 and \$2,800 respectively. Mark explained that for the time being a moratorium has been placed on the project because of the time of year. The subject will be re-addressed in the spring. Gary Fitzherbert asked if the remaining trees have been identified as dangerous or have dangerous or dead limbs in them would they be taken care of during this moratorium. Mark stated that anything identified as hazardous would be dealt with.

## **Adjournment:**

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

*Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.*

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Dick Carey and Susan Jahnke.

Cell Tower Committee Members Diane Dupuis, Phil Markert,

Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Tomlinson.

John Lawrence – Centerline Communications - Site Acquisition Specialist for AT&T, Tom Johnson –

ProTerra Design Group – Site Engineer.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. introducing those in attendance.

### **General Discussion**

included John Lawrence explaining his relationship with AT&T – contracted through SAI which is a “turf vendor” contracted by AT&T. His services are paid for by AT&T and are outside of any financial negotiations (i.e. lease amounts) that would be agreed upon between the Town and AT&T. Any formal proposal and agreement would be from New Singular Wireless (AT&T) and would be for an AT&T telecommunications tower. John explained that his first contact(s) with the Town of Washington were due to AT&T's interest in co-locating on Verizon's tower. As Verizon has stated it “is not in their development budget to continue with this site at this time”, AT&T is now interested in the site for their own tower.

Mark Lyon, Phil Markert, Rocky Tomlinson and John Lawrence went to the proposed site at the Town Highway property on Blackville Road and were joined by Tom Johnson, and a construction manager.

Upon their return discussion continued with John Lawrence asking what the Town's process would be. Mark Lyon explained that following today's meeting, AT&T could make a proposal, negotiations could begin – any contracts would be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and the Cell Tower Committee and if/when a lease agreement is arrived at, would be presented to the Town at a Town Meeting for approval by the Legislative Body.

Other points discussed included a request for a balloon float, power access to the site would be underground (AT&T responsible for power to their tower-any co-locators would be responsible for their own power source), tower height, review of setbacks, zoning regulations, etc. It was noted that although Verizon had done a great deal of work, AT&T would need to start from the beginning.

Diane Dupuis suggested that property owners that were within the 750-foot setback should put in writing their “approval” following the RF exposure being addressed. It was also noted that special attention should be given to the view from the Calhoun Street Historic District, as this has been a concern of residents. The projected time frame for construction was discussed – should the Town give it’s approval, all necessary permits applied for and approved, the project would then go before the Connecticut Siting Council which can take some time with required public hearings, time for appeals, etc. If approved by the Siting Council, AT&T estimated 4-6 months to construct the tower.

Mark recommended to John Lawrence that a presentation to the Town should include set-backs, RF exposures, height limit, rental amounts to be paid to the Town, length of lease and subsequent extensions, compensation for long-term, restoration of site and disassembling of the tower, etc. The Town will share any information that was made “public” during communications with Verizon.

**Adjournment:**

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved. Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary