

# February 27, 2014

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Jay Hubelbank.

**Public:** Tony Bedini, Paul Frank, Nick Solley, Delisse Locher.

**Press:** Loumarie Rodriguez - VOICES

## **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 January 28 and 29, 2014 Special Meetings and the January 30, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Dick Carey, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

## **Communications:**

\* Planning Commission memo:

The Planning Commission has written to Mark Lyon asking to be kept up-to-date with reports on the Plaza Improvement Project. The Commission was also requesting copies of the published notice, etc. Mark responded to Sarah Gager, Chairman, explaining that all the pertinent information has been sent to Dimitri Rimsky - Planning Commissioner and member of the Plaza Improvement Project Committee. He has also requested the Commission's secretary to send this information to all the commissioners. Mark further explained that the Plaza Committee meetings will be public and input and comments will be accepted.

\* Loy Wilkinson letter:

Mr. Wilkinson has sent a letter to the First Selectmen of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington regarding the consolidations and refurbishing plan that will be presented to the public and for a vote at a referendum. It is his feeling that neither of these should occur due to the drastic declining enrollment now and in the future.

\* Clifford Woodruff letter:

Mr. Woodruff has sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding a letter he has received from the Inland Wetlands Commission referring to an application he filed and a driveway repair he made in 1999. He is being fined by the Commission for \$150 for failing to perform regulated restoration activities. Mr. Woodruff is in disagreement to this fine and has asked the Board of Selectmen for an appeal. Mark Lyon has contacted James Powers who was appointed as a Hearing Officer for such matters. If he agrees, Mr. Woodruff can present his case to Mr. Powers and a representative from the Inland Wetlands Commission.

\* Senator Clark Chapin email:

Several weeks ago, Mr. Chapin had sent an email to the Towns regarding electricity suppliers marketing tactics. He has sent another with a schedule of public comment sessions held by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA). The last of these sessions is scheduled for Monday,

March 3, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at PURA's offices in New Britain.

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

Mark Lyon reported the following:

\* Solarize Connecticut results are in for Roxbury and Washington. Roxbury has had 14 installations contracted for and Washington 15. This nearly doubles the number of solar installations in the two Towns. Each of the Towns will receive "solar credits" which may be used towards the installation of a 5 KW system on a municipal building.

\* Snow Budget:

Mark reported that the Town's winter maintenance budget is over in the salt/sand area. 85% of the total winter maintenance budget has been spent and we still have March to get through. In addition, the latest payroll which included many overtime hours is not included in this figure. Jay Hubelbank asked the question about the procedure if the budgeted amount is overspent. Mark explained that the Board of Selectmen may ask for an appropriation of funds or may transfer funds from another line item in the budget that will have a surplus. Both actions would require a Town Meeting for approval.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

\* Solarize Roxbury/Washington final numbers.  
See above under First Selectmen's Report.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

\* Local Option Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Tax Credit increase:

Tax Assessor, Delisse Locher, attended this evening's meeting to discuss this. She has also attended the Board of Finance's meeting to explain. The State mandates that elderly and totally disabled taxpayers be offered tax credits. Several years ago, the Town of Washington adopted an ordinance establishing its own tax credit program. The previous Tax Assessor has historically requested that the Town's income limit be set \$2,000 higher than the State's. Delisse is recommending the same increase in order to extend this benefit to seniors and totally disabled who are slightly over the State limit. Traditionally the Tax Assessor has had \$20,000 to administer to those who apply and qualify.

Motion:

To approve the Tax Assessor's request for setting the income limit \$2,000 higher than the State's for the elderly and totally disabled homeowner's tax credit.

By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Mark Lyon.

Discussion:

Delisse explained that in addition to the Board of Selectmen's approval, she will also need to get the approval of the Board of Finance. The question was also raised as to whether or not the Town's ordinance could be amended to set the Town's income limit \$2,000 higher than the State's every year so that the Assessor did not need to make the request yearly. This point may be discussed further at a future date.

The motion passed unanimously.

\* Girl Scout Day Proclamation:

Motion:

To adopt the following Proclamation:

***Girl Scout Day Proclamation  
A Proclamation Celebrating 102 years of Girl Scouting***

*WHEREAS, March 12, 2014, marks the 102nd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;*

*WHEREAS, 1912 was also the year in which Girl Scouting started in the state of Connecticut;*

*WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and,*

*WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, Girl Scouts of Connecticut offers the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to nearly 44,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, and complete the project;*

*WHEREAS, core programs around environmental stewardship, anti-bullying techniques, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and healthy living, help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and,*

*WHEREAS, today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 3.2 million girls and adult volunteers are active members;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark E. Lyon, by virtue of the authority vested in me as First Selectman of the Town of Washington, CT do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for more than 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, proudly proclaim March 12, 2014, as Girl Scout Day.*

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

\* Opening of Requests for Qualifications for Bryan Plaza Project:

The following RFQs were received:

WMC Consulting Engineers, Newington, CT

NAFIS & Young, Northford, CT

Dirk Sabin, Landscape Architect, Washington, CT

Anchor Engineering Services, Inc., Glastonbury, CT  
Dymar, Southbury, CT  
Allied Engineering Associates, Canaan, CT  
Diversified Technical Consultants, Hamden, CT  
Lenard Engineering, Winsted, CT  
Weston-Sampson Engineers, Inc., Rocky Hill, CT  
BL Companies, Meriden, CT  
TPA Design Group, New Haven, CT  
MR Roming Associates, West Hartford, CT

The RFQ's will be reviewed by the Plaza Project Improvement Committee and interviews scheduled with the chosen firms. At the request of Peter Talbot, who is on the committee, these meetings will begin the week of March 10th.

**Visitors:**

Jay Hubelbank asked for an update on the Town Garage project especially how it will be funded since the bids for the project are higher than expected and most likely will be higher than the insurance settlement. Mark Lyon explained that he and Michael Jackson, Board of Finance Chairman, will be meeting with representatives from Union Savings Bank next week to discuss borrowing funds. Another possibility would be to ask for an appropriation from the Town's funds or to place it in the Capital Fund Budget which may mean deferring other projects. Whatever avenue is decided upon will need to be approved by a vote at a Town Meeting. This could be done by the end of March in order to keep this project going. As for the Town Hall project, Jay was concerned that the Selectmen had discussed and agreed several weeks ago, to continue with CHK who did the design work for the stage area in the Main Hall but no formal motion was made.

**Motion:**

To hire CHK Architects who performed the design work for the stage area of the Main Hall of Bryan Memorial Town Hall, to continue their work and develop construction specifications and plans in order to go out to bid for the reconstruction of the stage area for \$27,300.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey. Jay Hubelbank abstained.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:**

To adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary