

April 25, 2013

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Anthony J. Bedini.

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES

Public: Chris Charles, Nick Solley, Jane and Jack Boyer, Walter Whitney, Wayne Hileman.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION:

To add subsequent business not already on the agenda.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini.

Discussion:

1) Opening of Requests for Proposals for architectural and engineering concept design services for the Town Hall auditorium and stage area; and

2) Extend a Request for Qualifications in regard to the Transportation Enhancement Grant for Bryan Memorial Plaza.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 11, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Dick Carey, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 15, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Dick Carey, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 23, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Dick Carey, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments and Resignations:

* Appointment of Thomas Hollinger as a full member of the Historic District Commission:

HDC Chairman, Jane Boyer, has requested this appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Allen Kerr. Motion: To appoint Thomas Hollinger as a full member (moving up from an alternate) of the Historic District Commission until 1/1/2014. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Washington's Police Officer Scott Flaton:

Resident Trooper Steve Sordi has given the First Selectman a write up on the excellent job Officer Flaton did in investigating an incident at Shepaug High School. This will be placed in his personnel file.

* ZBA Notice of Public Hearing re: a setback issue for 104 River Road:

to install handicapped access to the residence. Mark Lyon and Kevin Smith, Highway Director, have reviewed the plans and have found no issue with the request.

* CIRMA distribution of member's equity:

CIRMA continues to make equity distributions to member towns. Despite the claims by the Town of Washington, in regard to the Highway Garage fire and the propane explosion at the Town Hall, the Town will be receiving a distribution in the amount of \$5789. This will bring the total equity distribution to \$17,971 for the past three years.

* Connecticut Trees of Honor Memorial, Inc.:

The city of Middletown, CT will be the home for the Trees of Honor Memorial to honor Connecticut's 64 fallen heroes of the War on Terror. Washington's was affected by the loss of Army Major Stephen Reich in 2005. The Foundation is asking the Towns affected to contribute \$1500 towards this endeavor. The plan for the "living" memorial will feature a flowering tree and a personalized plaque. Washington would like to take part and will distribute the request to Town organizations and/or individuals in hopes of raising the \$1500.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Discussion of Washington Community Housing Trust request for funding:

The Selectmen met in Executive Session with Walter Whitney, President of the WCHT regarding their request to the Washington Housing Commission for funding for the Vincent Property project. The Selectmen had detailed questions, mostly in regard to finances, for the Mr. Whitney and the Trust. The Selectmen have now requested a meeting with the Housing Commission to keep the discussion going and to hopefully come to a resolution quickly. There was lengthy discussion between those present regarding the work to be done on the Vincent house, information on septic systems, the "renovate to new" concept, etc. The Selectmen have suggested that Building Official Bill Jenks, tour the existing structure. The prospective buyer will be informed of the work that has been performed and, just like buyers of any home, will need to do their due diligence in regard to work that may be required to be performed in the future. There was also discussion of the Housing Trust vs. the Housing Commission and what their missions are – Trust dealing with "affordable housing" and the Commission dealing with housing needs of the entire Town – ex. downsizing for seniors.

* Opening of Requests for Proposals for architectural and engineering concept design services for the Town Hall auditorium and stage area:

The following RFP's were received:

1) John Martin Associates Architects, Torrington, CT \$14,500

2) Landmark Architects, P.C., East Haven, CT	\$30,000
3) Bennett Sullivan Associates, Inc., Southbury, CT	\$7,500
4) Salamone & Associates, P.C., Hamden, CT	\$6,900
5) Ames & Whitaker Architects, Southington, CT	\$15,000
6) Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Hamden, CT	\$7,900
7) Paul B. Bailey, Architect, New Haven, CT	\$17,950
8) Clohessy Harris & Kaiser, LLC, Simsbury, CT	\$13,480

The proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and Buildings and Property Commission.

Mark Lyon will ask if any member(s) of the Bryan Memorial Town Hall Board of Trustees would like to take part in the review.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Request for Qualifications – Bryan Memorial Plaza project:

The Town has received a DOT Transportation Enhancement grant for storm water management, parking, lighting, and ADA upgrades in the Plaza. 80% of the DOT estimated cost of \$600,000 will be reimbursed by the approved grant.

Motion:

To extend a Request for Qualifications for engineering and design services for Bryan Memorial Plaza.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini.

Discussion:

this is the first step required in the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

The next step is to form a committee to review the RFQs once received. This committee should be made up of Town officials and members of the community. The consensus of opinion is there should be representatives from the Selectmen's Office, the Planning Commission, the Buildings and Property Commission, the Washington Business Association and Highway Director.

* Setting the Agenda for the Annual Town Budget Meeting:

Motion:

To set the Agenda for the May 16, 2013 Annual Town Budget Meeting at 7:30p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall as follows:

- 1) To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses and Transfers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- 2) To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- 3) To approve a \$600,000 appropriation for road reconstruction.
- 4) To establish an Ordinance to change the term of the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Tax Collector and Treasurer from two years to four years.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

* Approval of the Town's Clerk's appointment of Amber Lamothe as Assistant Town Clerk:

Town Clerk, Sheila Anson, has requested the First Selectman approve of her appointing Amber

Lamothe as Assistant Town Clerk:

Motion:

To approve the appointment of Amber Lamothe as Assistant Town Clerk by Sheila Anson, Town Clerk, for the period May 1, 2013 to January 6, 2014.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Amber has been working with the Town Clerk for several weeks. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

* Chris Charles asked to have the thinking behind changing the terms of the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Treasurer and Tax Collector from two years to four years explained. Mark Lyon stated there are pros and cons...many feel that there is a large learning curve involved with these positions and many projects take a considerable amount of time from their beginning to completion. Having the continuity of people in these key positions is important. However, there are those that feel if these officials do not work well with others, it could be a long four years. It is also difficult to get a commitment from potential candidates who may need to leave a secure employment elsewhere – taking the chance they may be unemployed in two years if not re-elected. There was considerable discussion as to the importance of this change and whether it should be placed on a ballot when more townspeople would be likely to vote - as opposed to a Town Meeting where traditionally a small number of residents are in attendance. Mark explained that the petition that was presented called for its placement at this upcoming Town Meeting. He too, would be in favor of it being placed on the ballot in November and having the question decided at a larger vote. The question was raised if the motion to establish this ordinance at the Town Meeting could be amended to postpone the vote until the November election. Mark offered to check with the Moderator.

* Jane Boyer inquired about the \$600,000 appropriation for road reconstruction. Mark explained that the Board of Finance recommended this appropriation for five years (last year being the first) rather than bonding \$3,000,000. She also inquired as to whether or not there were job descriptions for Town employees, particularly Tax Assessor and Tax Collector. She requested they be sent to the Democratic and Republican Town Committees.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 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