

July 18, 2013

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

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES.

Public: Chris Charles, Nick Solley.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the July 3, 2013 Special Meeting and Regular Meeting and the July 12, 2013 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Appointment of Sara Woodroffe to the Historic District Commission:

Motion:

To appoint Sarah Woodroffe (D) as an alternate to the Historic District Commission until 1/1/16.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion: Ms. Woodroffe has been recommended by Jane Boyer, Chairman of HDC, to fill this position. Ms. Woodroffe has provided the Selectmen with a bio stating her interest in serving and her interest in historic preservation, etc.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Appointment of Robert Tomlinson to the Judea Cemetery Commission:

Mr. Tomlinson has expressed interest and has agreed to serve on this Commission. The Selectmen did not require a bio as he already serves the Town in a number of positions.

Motion:

To appoint Robert J. Tomlinson (R) to the Judea Cemetery Commission until 6/30/18.

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

* Resignation of Thomas Osborne from the Planning Commission:

Mr. Osborne has submitted a letter of resignation as an alternate to the Planning Commission due to time constraints because of his other Town positions.

Motion:

To accept, with regret, the resignation of Thomas Osborne as an alternate to the Planning Commission.

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

First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Chipsealing:

Seymour Sealing will be chipsealing in the New Preston/Marble Dale section of Town beginning next week.

* Homeland Tower Update:

Homeland Tower's attorney will be drafting a letter for Board of Selectmen approval, to the CT Siting Council requesting the waiving of the 90 day waiting period. Mark has been gathering information to accompany this request.

* Length of term vote:

Mark explained that the Board of Selectmen can place the change of term from two to four years for the Selectmen, Tax Collector and Treasurer vote on the November ballot. If it should pass, the change would take effect with the November 2015 elections. The Town Clerk, who is already elected for a four year term, will be on the November 2013 ballot. Discussion centered on adjusting of this term to be in sync with the other four year term offices. This could possibly be done at a Town Meeting. This will be explored further with the Town attorney and discussed with the Selectmen.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Discussion of use of Town Funds for the purchase of the old Texaco Station:

A request of \$20,000 has been made to the Board of Selectmen to consider funding for the purchase of the old Texaco Station. A private non-profit group has been formed and has raised funds but not the entire amount. The Conservation Commission was also approached and thought given to the Open Space Fund. The Selectmen took the request to the Board of Finance who did not feel an ex-budget appropriation of this amount to a private non-profit was an appropriate decision for them to make. They suggested a Special Town Meeting to get the approval of the Townspeople. The consensus of opinion is that the purchase and eventual improvement to the property would be an asset to the Town. However, is it an appropriate use of Town funds? The Selectmen will ask the principals of the non-profit group to come in and will continue to discuss. Chris Charles expressed his opinion that the Planning Commission should be involved, and the Town should have input as to the best and final use of the property, etc.

* Washington Food Market Proclamation:

Motion:

In honor and in appreciation of the Washington Food Market, the Selectmen proclaim the following:

"WHEREAS, Eugene Verrastro, along with Vincent P. Anelli, Sr. purchased the Washington Food Market in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Future generations of The Verrastro Family have continually owned and operated

the Washington Food Market; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Food Market has continued the high standards of Dedication, Service and Extreme Generosity to the Washington Community;

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed, that we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington, Connecticut, do hereby extend its deepest congratulations and appreciation on this the FOURTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON FOOD MARKET.”

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

The Proclamation will be framed and presented to the Food Market.

* Discussion of possible changes to the Town's Pension Plan:

Mark Lyon reported that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance have begun discussions regarding the Town's Pension Plan. Presently it is a defined benefit plan and they are considering a defined contribution plan. The present plan is becoming increasingly expensive. The defined contribution plan would allow the Selectmen to have a firm budget number and would put the onus of providing for retirement on the employee. More municipalities are changing to this type of plan. Discussion will continue.

Visitors:

* Chris Charles expressed the hope that the Washington Community Housing Trust would not consider the vote at the Town Meeting to not approve the funds for the Vincent Project as a rejection by the Town on the affordable housing issue. He feels if the Trust were to listen to the comments and ideas presented, a better plan may be possible. He suggested the Board of Selectmen encourage the Trust to do this.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:13p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary