

July 3, 2013

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

Press: Mike Preato – VOICES.

Public: Kris Collum, Nick Solley, Rocky Tomlinson.

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 June 20, 2013 Regular Meeting and the June 27, 2013 Special Meetings #1 and #2 of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Single Stream Recycling Containers

have been received and are being delivered to homeowners who have requested them by the Highway Department. There has been a great deal of interest in them and residents continue to sign up for them.

* 68 Wheaton Road – Nathaniel Shelton Wheaton Farmstead

– has applied with the Connecticut Department of Economic Development for inclusion in the Historic Registry.

* 6 Mountain Road Cell Tower

– a notification of application for a change to the cell tower has been received to change 3 of the antennae by AT&T. No action is required by the Town.

* 4th of July Fireworks

have been cancelled due to the extreme wet conditions of the grounds at the Shepaug campus. Pass holders are being asked to hold on to their passes for next year's celebration – few to none will be sold next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Awarding of Bid for Roadside Mower:

The four bids received were all considerably higher than what had been budgeted.

Motion:

To NOT award the bid for the roadside mower at this time.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey.

Discussion:

the Selectmen and the Highway Director will review the needs of the Town and will possibly re-bid at a later date.

The motion passed unanimously.

* Awarding of Bid for Boiler Room and Basement Modifications:

The Board of Selectmen and Buildings and Property Commission met with the two companies who bid on this project to discuss and review their bids.

Motion:

To award the bid for Boiler Room and Basement Modifications in Bryan Memorial Town Hall to Richards Corporation of Terryville, CT for \$174,417.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

* HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Visitors:

* Kris Collum stated he had been in to speak with Mark Lyon several weeks ago regarding a Town Hall employee allegedly speaking disrespectfully about him and, as a result, lost two possible tenants in his rental properties. Kris asked the Board of Selectmen to discuss this further as he has contacted an attorney who advised him "he had a case". Mark explained that no further action was taken by him or the Board as Kris had not identified the employee who had allegedly said something derogatory. Kris stated he had copies of a letter and checks from the prospective tenants and that he would drop them off at the Selectmen's office.

* Chris Charles discussed the request by the Selectmen to the Washington Community Housing Trust for more information and accurate figures/projected costs, etc. for the Vincent Property project. It is Chris's feeling that the information provided is not thorough, the numbers do not add up – yet, the Board of Selectmen is going ahead with the Special Town Meeting to act on the request of the Housing Trust for \$225,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund for this project. Tony Bedini expressed the opinion that information has been requested from the Housing Trust – they will need to present their project at the Town Meeting, answer questions, etc. and if the townspeople do not feel the presentation is adequate or worthy of approving, that is the Housing Trust's responsibility/problem. The Selectmen have been diligent with their requests but it is now up to the Housing Trust to present their case. Chris's opinion is that the information provided to date is thin, that the entire project could be reviewed by different groups, commissions, etc. Mark Lyon agreed that some of the information provided is limited, however, questions, discussions, etc. at the Special Town Meeting will determine if the townspeople feel the project is worthy of approval. Mark further explained he has spoken with an attorney regarding the wording of the

Resolution so that if the project should fail, or the property is not developed, or the Trust puts the property up for sale, the Town would get the funds returned.

* Rocky Tomlinson asked for clarification on the process- Housing Trust went to the Housing Commission – did not like what the Commission recommended so went to the Board of Selectmen? Mark confirmed this with explanation that the Trust also went to the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance felt that the request of \$285,000 was too high but that \$225,000 was a reasonable amount for the Trust to proceed with the project. This would need to be approved at a Special Town Meeting. Chris Charles stated his interest is that the Town get the most for its money, that there could be other configurations on the property, more review by developers, banks, etc. Mark, Dick Carey and Tony Bedini again stated in their own words that the Board of Selectmen has not endorsed the project but has offered to let the people decide with a vote at a Special Town Meeting. Rocky asked if the matter should not be put on a ballot and voted on in November – thus giving more people the opportunity to vote and more time to get accurate information. He felt by doing this the Selectmen would be consistent - comparing this action to the four-year term vote that was not taken at the last Special Town Meeting but postponed for a ballot vote. Rocky also inquired about the status of the cell tower. Mark explained he had spoken with Homeland Towers and they have not yet received a signed contract from AT&T – this is needed prior to going to the Siting Council. He then asked Mark for an explanation of the understanding between the Town and the Region #12 School District regarding the hiring of a “Resource Officer” (security). Mark explained that the Region #12 budget includes a Resource Officer – it is up to the Region to hire this person. However, should that person be a certified police officer, he/she has to work and report to one of the Resident State Troopers in one of the three towns in the District. Mark said he agreed to have this person be listed as a Washington police officer – reporting to our Resident Trooper but the Town would not be paying him – it would be up to the Business Manager of the Region to work out how he/she would be an employee of Region #12. Rocky feels there are several issues here that need to be addressed and discussed further. Tony Bedini, also a member of the School Board, explained the Board does not hire teachers, staff, etc. – the Superintendent does. There has been meetings with the Board, State troopers, Emergency Management people, etc. and the Town does not have the right to tell the Region what to do. The Board works in the best interest of the students.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.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