

# August 29, 2013

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

**Press:** Lou Marie Rodriguez – VOICES.

**Public:** Rex Swain, Nick Solley, Taylor Cannavaro, Chris Charles,

**Guests:** CL&P Representatives Diana McCarthy-Bercury and Steven Silver.

**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 August 15, 2013 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

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

## **Communications:**

\* Letter from the Connecticut Community Foundation notifying the Selectmen that scholarships have been awarded to five Washington students pursuing a college education.

\* Letter from Leukemia & Lymphoma Society designating September as Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness month.

Events are scheduled around the State, the closest being September 28th – “Light the Night” in Newtown.

## **Appointments/Resignations:**

\* Discussion of appointment of a “Veterans’ Service Contact Person”:

The State Department of Veterans’ Affairs has notified City and Town Officials that effective October 1, 2013, a public act will go into effect requiring the designation of a Veterans’ Service Contact Person. This person will be responsible for coordinating all matters concerning veterans and their dependents. Training sessions will be provided by the State. Mark Lyon explained he will be looking into an appropriate person, possibly affiliated with the Legion, and/or combining with other neighboring towns through the Northwest Council of Governments

## **First Selectman’s Report:**

Mark Lyon reported the following:

\* Calhoun Street:

paving will begin next week.

\* Baldwin Hill Road:

paving has been completed on the New Preston side.

\* Meeting with Assessor:

Assessor, Delisse Locher, has informed the Selectmen that the current partial revaluation is going well and is on schedule.

\* Regionalized Planning Group:

The State is giving incentives to Towns to regionalize planning groups. Washington, through NWCOG, may join with the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials in this endeavor. It would be most beneficial to have an individual who could focus on planning and economic development issues.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

\* Change to Town's Pension Program:

Board of Finance Commissioner Rex Swain presented a synopsis of the Pension Committees of their evaluation of the Town's Pension Program which is currently a "defined benefit" program and the possibility of changing to a "defined contribution" program. Budgeting for the current program is often very difficult – presenting calculations and receiving numbers from the pension actuaries changes is not only time consuming but the amount of money needing to be budgeted each year changes – often dramatically. The "defined contribution" budgeted number would be much easier to calculate and predict as it is based on a percentage of the employee's salary. There would be no payment to an actuary and there is no risk of wondering about how investments are doing. The Pension Committee met with Union savings Bank and Nationwide and has received proposals from both. It is their feeling that the Nationwide proposal is much more favorable to the Town and unanimously recommend it for the Town. Current employees will remain in the current program and new employees would be enrolled in the new. Rex offered to be available for any questions. The Selectmen will vote on whether or not to change to this new program at their September 12, 2013 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

\* Discussion with CL&P representatives re: Clean Energy Community Program:

Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Program Administrator, explained that this program is an initiative funded by both the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund which seeks to have cities and towns reduce energy use and increase support for clean, renewable energy for municipal facilities. The Town would take a pledge to reduce its municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018. Steven Silver, Community Relations, also offered his availability to the Town for any concerns. Should the Town elect out of this program, there is no binding contract nor subsequent penalty. Motion: To accept the terms and make the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

\* Resolution for Historic Documents Preservation Grant:

Mark Lyon explained that this Grant is applied for annually through the office of the Town Clerk.

Motion:

Be it Resolved: that Mark E. Lyon, First Selectman of the Town of Washington, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut

State library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.  
By Mark Lyon, seconded by Tony Bedini and unanimously approved.

\* Final Draft of Homeland Towers Siting Council Application:  
The Selectmen have received copies of the final application draft for the construction of a cell tower on Town property at the Highway Department. The Selectmen will review prior to requesting waiving of the 90 day municipal waiting period. There are copies of the application in the Selectmen's Office should anyone wish to review it.

Motion:

To Schedule a Special Selectmen's Meeting on Thursday, September 5, 20123 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the application and to vote on whether or not to request waiving the 90-day municipal period.

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

**Visitors:**

\* Taylor Cannavaro came to follow up on his request to have the State and/or Town address a site-line problem at the intersection of Church Street and Route 45 in New Preston. If cars are parked close to the corner it makes it very difficult to see if traffic is coming from the direction of the Lake. Mark Lyon explained he had spoken with a representative from DOT and would follow up with him this week regarding signage.

**Adjournment:**

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:28 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