

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 8, 2014

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Public: Peter Talbot, Tim Cook and Nick Solley.

Press: Loumarie Rodriguez – VOICES.

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 April 24, 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Carey, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman' Report: Mark Lyon reported the following:

- **Cell Tower Update:** Homeland Towers anticipates submitting construction documents to the CT Siting Council by the end of this month. Once approved by the Siting Council, they will be applying for building permits and anticipate beginning construction the end of June or early July.
- **Tax Collector, Donna Alex,** has completed and passed the first of four courses for her certification.
- **Nominations to the State Register of Historic Places:** The State Department of Economic and Community Development has notified the Selectman's Office that the Smith Homestead/Waldingfield Farm at 24 East Street and the Baldwin Black Farmstead at 110 Blackville Road have been nominated for listing on the State's Register of Historic Places.
- **Paintcare:** Connecticut residents may bring any amount of latex or oil based paint to events sponsored by Paintcare. There is a drop off scheduled for this Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Railroad Station in New Milford.
- **Covanta/Recyclables:** As part of the Town's long-term agreement with Covanta for municipal solid waste, they would also begin to accept recyclables if they found a place to take them. BRRFOC, which currently takes the Town's recyclables, has gone out to bid for another facility to accept recyclables. Covanta has the right of first refusal on whom we contract with but the location should be "like in kind" of what we currently have. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Town Garage:** Construction of the new garage is progressing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Status of Town Website:** Steve Wadelton, the Town's webmaster, attended this evening's meeting to update the selectmen on the status of the new website for the Town. Steve is hopeful that the new site will go live within the next 2 weeks. Approximately 90% of the information has been transferred to the new site; most employees have received some training

and certain employees will have access to specific pages. Steve and John Gueniat will be the two administrators and will be able to assist employees. The Town will issue a press release announcing the new site, what will be offered, etc.

- **Status of plans for the Main Hall of Bryan Memorial Town Hall – stage area:** Plans have been received from CHK architects. Mark Lyon has emailed the Trustees of the Town Hall to notify them the plans are available for review. The Selectmen are hopeful that an Invitation to Bid can be extended at their next meeting for the construction of a new conference room in the area of the former stage that was damaged in a propane explosion. It is estimated that construction will take approximately four months.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Tim Cook – thoughts on Region #12 enrollment and consolidation:** Tim attended this evening's meeting to present his thoughts on the declining enrollment in the Region's schools. Tim feels that in order to attract young families to our Town, the Town needs to make a commitment to assist families in moving here. He is suggesting that \$200,000 be placed in the Town's budget for five years for assisting with down payments in amounts of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Tim feels that by attracting young families, we would not only help increase the numbers of children in our schools, but also the Town's overall economy. Mark Lyon explained the Housing Commission's new program, "Down Payment Assistance Program", which, if approved at the Town Meeting on May 15th, will provide \$100,000 to be used for down payments in the amounts of \$5,000-\$10,000. Tim's concern is these amounts won't be enough. The Selectmen thanked Tim for his thoughtful observations and further discussed the future of more "neighborhood-type" developments to further attract young families.
- **Support of the Town of Kent re: changing of rules establishing an Indian Tribe.** The Federal Government is proposing revisions to rules that would allow Indian groups to seek tribal recognition if this had been denied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Town of Kent feels by changing the current regulations, Kent, and other Connecticut Towns, may suffer negative impacts. It feels that final acknowledgement decisions concerning Connecticut tribal claimants should remain final. **Motion:** To authorize First Selectman Mark Lyon to sign in support of the opposition of the Town of Kent to the proposed revisions to the acknowledgement regulations, 25CFR, Part 83. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Peter Talbot: Main Street Investment Fund Grant application:** Peter Talbot attended this evening's meeting to ask the Selectmen for their support in One Green Hill's (the old Texaco Station) applying for the Main Street Grant through the State. The Washington Park Foundation, a 501-c, has been formed for this project. Funds are available through the grant for the upgrading of buildings within village centers, improving appearances of Main Streets, etc. The Town would actually have to apply for the grant and, if approved, would then reimburse the Foundation for expenses incurred in improving the site. The application can be made for up to \$500,000. Peter will obtain more information and hopefully have a completed package for the next meeting of the Selectmen.

MOTION: To enter into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6:35 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen exited Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. and re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.
By Dick Carey, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary