

Board of Selectmen
April 21, 2014

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Selectman David Muller; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Department heads; residents and members of the press.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Accept the resignation of Jeffery Tallman from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation on Jeffery Tallman from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a proposal to put lights on the football field. Michael Carter made a presentation (attached to the minutes). They are hoping the approval process and the fund raising process will be done in June so the order can be placed with Musco. Musco needs two months to install which would be July and August.

Ms. Weinstein said that we are going to need to get a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Selectmen, the School district and the end user so we know who will be responsible to pay for what.

The neighbors on Parade Ground will make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen at the May 1st, meeting. Brian Porter said that he was voicing his continued opposition for the installation of lights on the football field as it is currently proposed. The proposal calls for too many use occasions both in terms of number of days and the hours of operation. The negotiated agreement that was reached in Westport is the one that he would like the Weston proposal be modeled after. They would like to request specific limitations on the use of the public address system and the portable devices such as boom boxes at the field. They would like the board to eliminate the use of lighted fields by non-Weston teams and he would like the walking lights eliminated from the proposal. He would like portable lights brought in and set up the way it is proposed so that the Selectmen and the neighbors can actually see the impact of the lights being proposed.

Sandy Block said that the spillage is on the field but the lights are there and you will see them from your house.

Mr. Muller said that there is a general consensus that there will be lights in some fashion. When he lived in Westport behind the school, it wasn't the lights but the noise. His kids were routinely awakened not by the lights but the PA system which was ½ mile away. He hears and understands the perspective of those who live adjacent to the field. In keeping, what was made clear in the Plan of Conservation and Development, this project does accomplish a lot of the objectives of Planning and Zoning.

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One of the things that he would want to look at is screening along the entire parameter of the field. He would like to hear more about whether there is a mechanism that the lights can be turned off opportunistically when they are not being used until the agreed hour.

Mr. Muller wants to be sure that the MOU does reflect reality, he doesn't want there ever to be a situation after it has gone through all these approvals that we end up with a "he said she said" situation. If we are going to have a MOU it is in everybody's best interest that we don't have to go to the grievance committee every third day. He wants to know how many of the other Towns in Connecticut having similar set-up to Weston and Westport where there are residential properties adjacent to the field and what the impact was. At some point you put so many restrictions on the project it's not an easy project. Those are the items that he is pondering.

Mr. Tracey said he agrees there are some very difficult decisions to be made. He agrees about what has been said about the benefits of this project to the community. He knows that every minute that these kids are on the field with coaches and parents and each other they are benefiting and they are not doing something else that could be of less benefit. He hates to have to balance all that benefit against what is a serious inconvenience on happiness of some of our much respected neighbors.

Mr. Tracey said the sound is a key question and not disturbing the benefits as to why people move to Weston unless we have too. He is very concerned about control over the sound and lights. We don't want a situation where this gets out of control, if we agree on terms we have to stick to the terms. Whatever terms we come up with we should look at as the initial terms and we should look at this as an ongoing learning process. If we learn things along the way we should be willing to be flexible. He is very interested in the differences with Westport and why there are differences.

Ms. Weinstein said that she thought the term sheet was great but she has put it in a simpler version. Monday through Friday High School Football will vacate the field by 7:00pm and they got confirmation that that will be 6:45pm. Youth football can begin practice at 6:45 so the lights will be off 15 minutes earlier. She would like the MOU to have a clause that if you can fill a slot at an earlier time you do so that the lights can get turned off earlier. She asked when the walking lights will be on. The lights will be on Monday through Friday between May 1st and November 1st. Mark Berkowitz said that the lights are not on unless someone is on the field during a non-practice time. He sets the light to go off but if a game is over early he shuts them off. They are only set to be on when people are supposed to be on the field.

Ms. Weinstein said she promised the neighbors that they would send a formal letter to the Board of Education and ask their facilities subcommittee to review the issue of sound. Particularly other sounds that are not related to games where people use their boom boxes. If we eliminate that type of sound it might mean a better quality of life for the neighbors. Ms. Weinstein asked for a copy of the lighting report to that she could include it with request for an 8-24 report from Planning and Zoning.

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Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the First selectman to refer an 8-24 report application to Planning and Zoning and submit an application to the Conservation commission for installation of lights on the Football field. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding accepting a gift from the Weston Gun Club Community Foundation for \$7,499 to purchase Cygnus Reflectorless Total Station Accident Reconstruction Equipment and Software- Chief Troxell.

Chief Troxell said during the budget process this item was eliminated. David Lindsey from the Community Foundation Board contacted him and asked what they needed. John presented the Cygnus Reflectorless Total Station Accident and Reconstruction equipment and Software to him and he took it back to his board and they approved it. The Police Commission has also approved it and now they are coming to the Selectmen to accept it as a gift.

Officer Mogollen said with this technology you assess an accident scene a lot quicker and open the road sooner. It is a lot more accurate and you only need two officers to do it. Both officer Mogollen and Arnette have been trained to use this equipment.

Mr. Muller moved to accept a gift from the Weston Gun Club Community Foundation for \$7,499 to purchase Cygnus Reflectorless Total Station Accident Reconstruction Equipment and Software. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Discussion regarding the ATBM process- Ms. Weinstein said that rather than vote on every individual line item in the Town Budget they would like to vote on categories. You can make a motion to reduce any line items in that category to meet Charter and statutory requirements but she thinks it will move the meeting a lot faster if we just have to vote on general government. The registrars, Moderator Barbara Reynolds, Parliamentarian Robert Uzenoff, Pat Sullivan and Ms. Weinstein have all worked together and they feel that they are in good shape.

Mr. Muller asked at what time the quorum is determined. Laura said after the rules are read. It will be the moderator's call as to whether or not to make a new determination about the quorum.

Discussion/decision regarding the Mission Statement for the Lachat Commission.

Mr. Tracey said we are establishing a Lachat Town Farm Commission to oversee the farm and the farmhouse. The idea is to have a small group of committed individuals, politically balanced to provide oversight to the project and have a Board of Advisors who will bring specific occasionally needed talents to the table. The Mission Statement that he has drafted is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Weinstein said she wanted to codify who are the other members serving either as a commission member or as an advisory member to make sure that this is a tie into the entire community. She did have a conversation with Rick Darling who agreed to work with the commission to set up their funds and help them with budgets and finances.

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We need to flesh out the terms of the employee and what that person is going to do. She would like to wait until our next meeting to approve the Mission Statement and we will work on the language for the advisory board.

Discussion/decision regarding a resolution to contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant- This is a grant that we get every year and the Town Clerk uses it to put the land records into books on archival paper.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve a resolution to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with the Connecticut State Library for Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refund:

Howard and Katherine Aibel	\$333.23
Craig Bottger	<u>\$362.10</u>
Total	\$695.33

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$695.33 as listed on the April 21, 2014 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

First Selectman updates- Update on the new Police Station- Ms. Weinstein said the plan right now is to have it perpendicular to the firehouse, set back with the sally port and egress in the middle of that so that you would see the front of the police station facing the road. This way we will have some sort of public site line to the police station from Weston Road. We have details to work out with parking and how we are going to egress from the Police Station onto Weston Road which will give them a secondary egress. They have given Brian Humes the okay to start the schematics.

We are not sure where we are with the Senior Center. Ms. Weinstein had a great meeting with Wendy Petty, Helen de Keijzer, Rack Gleason, John Pokorny, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Keating and Dan Clarke and discussed potential ways that they could increase space in the Senior by building a solid wall between the school and the Senior Center which would improve the security even more than the locked door that we have now. They would have to build a hallway to outside. At the school facilities committee meeting, Dr. Keating introduced a security consultant that they hired and they want to do a security review, prior to handing over additional space to the Town. She's not sure we will be able to get that work done this summer.

COG- at their meeting on Thursday they are hoping that CEO's will approve a letter to be sent to the State asking that they merge their MPO with Housatonic Valley MPO. They believe it's in their best interest to make that connection

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because we are going to join a COG with them. Mayor Martin from Stamford is not in favor of this and has veto power and can choose to use that so that nothing can be done. They are in the process of finalizing By-Laws and once that's done she'll get it to the Board for their review.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- Mr. Tracey made a motion to add a discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to negotiate and enter into a contract with KG&D for construction administration. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein said that when the contracts were signed with KG&D to do the construction documents we did not authorize them to do the construction administration because we weren't sure whether we were going to move forward or not with the project. They are starting their pre-construction meetings this week so she thinks it's important that they have construction oversight so she's asking the Board to allow her to negotiate and enter into the contract.

Mr. Muller moved that the Board authorize the First Selectman to negotiate and enter into a contract with KG&D architects for construction administration. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of April 3rd, 2014, the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of April 7, 2014. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting and April 7, 2014 Special Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:46pm Mr. Muller moved to enter into executive session. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session- Contract negotiation-

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 9:46pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectman Tracey and Muller present.

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed a contract for Tom Landry the Town Administrator.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At a motion (David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At pm a motion to adjourn the meeting (Dennis Tracey motion, David Muller second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 5/19/14