

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
May 1, 2014

**Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; 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-**Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Proclamation Dante and Barbara Zacavish-** Ms. Weinstein presented a proclamation to Dante and Barbara Zacavish owners of the Lunch Box since 1977.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Kathleen Moore to fill the vacancy (Harriette Heller) on the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2014.** Kathleen said that she and her husband have been residents for about 5 years. They have two children in the Weston School System. She is an attorney and has been home with her children for several years. After graduating from law school she served as law clerk to the Honorable Judge Ralph Winter of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and to the United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Kathleen Moore to fill the vacancy on the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion regarding the proposal for lights on the HS football field.-**Ms. Weinstein invited the Parade Ground neighbors to speak. Jonathan Kamisar provided material on "Need to Have versus a Nice to Have". He also provided a chart on the Westport stipulation versus how the Weston neighbors feel. Both of these are attached to the minutes. Ms. Weinstein said that she wanted to make it clear that from her prospective it was not a question of necessarily matching what Westport has.

Ms. Weinstein said what would be helpful to her is if they had another column so it would read Westport stipulation, what Weston neighbors would agree too and where we are right now. Mr. Muller asked all the neighbors were in agreement. Mr. Kamisar said he did get input from some of the neighbors but it is a sellable document. Mr. Muller said if we do not have uniform buy in then you can have one person that decides to sue. His concern is about shifting the base line and does this become the default rather than the current proposal. Mr. Kamisar said he is representing himself and while he would like to get some consensus,he cannot represent anyone but himself.

Mr. Tracey said he has a slightly different perspective. He wouldn't be looking for an agreement from the neighbors on every point or unanimity because he does not think that's going to be possible. He thinks that we have to balance all the factors, but the more people who tell us that they are happy with this compromise the more persuasive it is going to be to him.

Mr. Kamisar went through the Westport stipulation versus Weston neighbors.

Sandy Block said that without having any kind of remediation it's hard to come to any kind of conclusion on this. In the Town's Plan of Development, there are some very strong points about maintaining the rural character of the Town which this does not comply with.

Brain Porter said that he is repeating his adamant opposition to the proposal as it currently exists. They have asked repeatedly for a test on field to observe the light and the Selectmen seem to have relied on the Lighting Committee saying they don't want to bear the cost. To him that is not an acceptable answer. He asked that the Selectmen take the time necessary and not be fast tracked.

Steven Semaya said that in addition to supporting all of the points that have been made, he and his whole family are opposed to the installation of lights. They don't believe that the supposed benefits that the lights are going to bring should supersede the rights of dozens of families who are going to be negatively impacted by this. He asked the Selectmen before finalizing a decision, that they respond to each of the issues that are raised so that they can understand how each of these points has helped the Selectmen to reach a decision.

Larry Schwartz said the whole thing has been incredibly distressing. Trying to minimize the impact is their goal. He agrees with what Jonathan has proposed. He had a letter from Lisa Brodlie which he read to the Selectmen.

Sandy Block said that the zoning regulations that we have specifically talk to illumination which goes on to adjacent properties. Ms. Weinstein said that the Town is exempt from zoning. Mr. Block said he did not agree. Ms. Weinstein said that regardless, the Town wants to be good neighbors.

Mr. Muller said when he was on P&Z and WIS was being built, the original plan had the school buses going up behind the school. They listened to what the neighbors on Parade Ground said and the buses never went there. That shows that there is a deliberate intent to make sure that they are trying to balance everything fairly.

**Discussion regarding the potential for a microgrid- Don Gary.** Don Gary introduced Mohammed Zia from Honeywell. They talked to the Selectmen about the possibility of microgrids in Weston. Mr. Gary said they would like the Board of Selectmen to agree to pursue, from a conceptual point of view.

Currently the legislature wants to encourage distributed generation and back-up. They have a new program called the DEEP program which will fund installation of a microgrid. A microgrid is a way to assure that we generate electricity at a price that is less than what we can get it for from CL&P. It's a back-up and it's also a stand-alone. It can run 24/7 but when the grid goes down it can continue to run on its own and it can serve the ones that we feel are critical and we will not have power outages as a practical matter.

Mr. Zia explained that a microgrid is a stand-alone generation island mode. If you lose from the grid level you will still have power especially in a critical area. The microgrid itself is a sophisticated switching system and connection system. To that, you add the source of creating the electricity and you can do that in a number of ways. The microgrid channels the electricity to the area that needs it the most.

Ms. Weinstein said that RFP's are due August 8<sup>th</sup> so she wanted to see if the Selectmen were on board with the concept. Then she wants to bring it to the Building Committee for them to vet the details of it. There is a potential for a 2 million dollar grant. She said that we wouldn't be doing the school campus right away but would be focusing on the Town Hall Complex, Weston Center and potentially Hurlbutt as well. If Hurlbutt was included we would have to have a discussion with the school.

**Discussion/decision regarding the mission statement for the Lachat Town Farm**

**Commission.** Ms. Weinstein said we want to give the commission the ability to establish some policies and procedures and have some oversight but it would have to be with concurrence of Town Boards and Department heads as appropriate. After some discussion there were amendments made to the Mission Statement. The amended Mission Statement is attached to the minutes. Ms. Weinstein said she would like to ask the existing committee about members being members on the Lachat Town Farm Commission and use that as a starting point because they work really well as a group.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the Mission Statement for the Lachat Town Farm Commission as amended. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passes unanimously.

**Open Items**

**First Selectman Updates-** Ms. Weinstein said that 224 people voted at the referendum. Town Operating Budget 159 yes 65 No. School Operating Budget 133 yes 91 No. Capital Budget 163 yes 61 no. All three budgets have passed.

**Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None**

**Discussion/approval of the minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting-** Tabled to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

At 9:25pm Mr. Muller made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive session-**

**Discussion/decision regarding the police commission and their negotiations.**

**ATTENDANCE:** The meeting was convened at 9:26pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Tracey present. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Landry, and Police Commissioner Gralnick.

**DISCUSSION:** The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Town's negotiating positions in the current labor negotiations with the Police bargaining unit.

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No votes were taken.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: At 9:36 pm, a motion (David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

**Discussion regarding security issues**

At 9:37 pm in the First Selectman's Office, a motion ( David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing a proposal for a security review of the Senior Center and the Hurlbutt Elementary School passed by unanimous vote.

ATTENDANCE: The executive session was attended by Board members Weinstein, Tracey and Muller, School Supt. Palmer, Board of Education member Uzenoff, and Administrator Landry.

DISCUSSION: The topic was discussed, no votes were taken.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: At 10:01 pm, a motion (Dennis Tracey, David Muller second) to adjourn executive session and reenter open session passed by unanimous vote.

**Open Session- Decision /decision regarding a supplemental appropriation of \$4,500 requested by the Board of Education for the purposes of hiring a security consultant.**

AUTHORIZATION: At 10:02 pm, a motion (David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) authorizing the Board of Education to utilize up to \$4,500 from a previous supplemental appropriation for security related items ( NOTE: that appropriation retains a balance of approximately \$64,000) to retain the firm DVS to complete a security review of the Hurlbutt School and the current use and possible expansion of the Weston Senior Center located in the building, as described in the firm's April 28 letter to Dr. Palmer passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN: At 10:04 pm, a motion to adjourn (Dennis Tracey, David Muller second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 6/23/14