

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting****May 22, 2008**

Present: First Selectman Woody Bliss; Selectman W. Glenn Major; Selectwoman Gayle Weinstein; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito and Residents.

**This meeting was recorded and video taped and the tapes are available in the Selectmen's office and the Building Department, respectively, for further reference.**

Mr. Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:32pm

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Connor Johnson led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Connor made a presentation to the Selectmen about Emergency Preparedness for his Eagle Scout project. He has set up a table with packets on Emergency Preparedness entitled "Are You Ready". The display is in the front lobby of the Weston Town Hall.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Mike Falbo as Weston's representative on the Southwest Regional EMS Council to fill the vacancy (Mike Lieberman) for a term to expire October 17, 2009.** - Mike Falbo said he has been on EMS and on the Fire Department since 1995. He enjoys doing the work. Mr. Major made a motion to appoint Mike Falbo as Weston's representative to the Southwest Regional EMS Council to fill the vacancy of Mike Lieberman for a term to expire October 17, 2009. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Ken Edgar as an alternate on Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy (Harriette Heller) for a term to expire November 9, 2010.** Mr. Edgar said he was a retired attorney who had worked for 33 years at a law firm in New York City. He was a partner at Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett. He was a tax lawyer and had an undergraduate law degree from NYU and a Tax Masters degree from NYU. He retired at the end of 2006 and moved to Weston. He and his wife are trying to give back to the community.

Mr. Major asked if he would have any issues with a conflict of interest. Mr. Edgar said no, but wanted to make the Board aware that he is a member of the Aspetuck Country Club. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to appoint Ken Edgar as an alternate on Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy of Harriette Heller for a term to expire November 9, 2010. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding recommendation to withdraw from SWEROC- Joseph Lametta** - Joseph Lametta said it was his recommendation to withdraw membership from the Southwest Regional Recycling Organization of Connecticut (SWEROC). We are coming to the end of the contract and we have been in it for a while. We have not received any payment for our recyclables for the last 20 years.

CRRA made a presentation this year to try and entice the Town by giving us \$15 a ton for recyclables. The \$15 does not include the CRRA operating expenses which would be deducted from the \$15. He said that they have started a coalition of SWEROC town looking for a better deal. Many towns are now also withdrawing from SWEROC.

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to withdraw from SWEROC. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/ decision regarding the Booster Barn-Brian McMahon** - Brian McMahon said that they now have refined numbers for the Booster Barn. They found a company called Utility Pre-cast who will deliver the building and install it in one day. The building comes with all facilities, toilets, sinks, kitchen, all electric. The building can be up and operating in a half day. There is no heat or air conditioning in it.

The cost for a building 12' x 20' x 8' is standard with two rollups is \$59,656 installed. There is an additional cost to place the pad which sits on gravel which is estimated at \$10,000 making the total cost for everything \$70,000. This is smaller than the original Booster Barn. The water and sewer are already there. The extra would be a gas cylinder which would be replaced.

Mr. McMahon said that the Booster Barn will generate about \$50,000 a year, which he feels is a conservative figure. He said that figure he got from Mike Foster, President of the Booster Club. Ms. Weinstein asked how much it generated in previous years. Mr. McMahon said he had no idea.

They got two bids in from two separate companies for the stands. One bid was \$262,000. Pomperaug has these stands and sells billboards, 17 of them for \$10,000 a piece and they have five year rights on them. The booster club wanted to do two year rights which would be \$170,000 for the school every two years. The Weston Board of Education agreed to them selling name plates on the seats and they can sell the seats. The seats would be sold for \$1,000 a row which would get them \$72,000. The second bid was for \$217,000 which has fewer seats.

The total cost for the project is \$331,656. The Town has \$40,000 and they have pledges committed of \$30,000 so they have \$70,000. The project is short \$261,656. Mr. Bliss said he could not find anywhere where the \$40,000 was committed. Mr. Landry said there were three different appropriations in the capital budget from 1998-99 until now. The High School bleachers were \$58,650, \$32,500 for the soccer field and \$12,500 for Morehouse fields. Those bleacher have all been bought and all those funds have been expended.

Ms. Weinstein asked what the difference was in the bleachers from the \$292,000 as compared to the \$217,000. There are 1100 seats as compared to 700 seats.

Mr. McMahon said the shortfall of \$261,656 would be paid by the kids. He went thorough a breakdown of different club revenues and other sources which totaled \$39,500 per year. The funds from selling bleacher seats \$72,000 and billboard sales of \$170,000.

Ms. Weinstein asked if the Board of Education was okay with this project. Ms. Uzenoff said that it was definitely something that the Board of Education needs. She said that it is important to know that this is a Board of Education project. It is a part of the program and something that they would be responsible for. She said they have been able to have Kaestle Boos take a look and develop some schematics.

Ms. Uzenoff, Dr. Belair, Joanne Keating, Dan Clarke and Brian McMahon had a meeting and they talked about the philosophy and what could and could not be done. They have very specific policies that do not allow them to do certain things. They have anti-commercialism, they do not have advertising, no signs on campus and that is key. She said the Board of Education has been very conservative and it may never change. The seats are different and they have a process in place. They have allowed a plague but did not allow individual name tags.

Ms. Uzenoff said the aesthetics of the Booster Barn are acutely important. She could not say that pre-cast was going to be the answer. She felt it needed a lot of development for the physical building itself. In June at their next facilities meeting they are looking at it again in concept because there are some stumbling blocks that need to be worked on.

Mr. McMahon said that they understood but that they have lost \$250,000 of income because we have no Booster Barn. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that this was a BOE project, it be controlled by the facilities sub-committee of the BOE. They would formulate a partnership with the Booster Club so there is input in the design process. He would invite Building Committee members to participate in the process but it would be a protracted experience if they did it through the Building Committee.

The reason they are hiring the architect is to look at the program, code issues and also infrastructure issues. Mr. Bliss asked about a time frame. Mr. Fitzpatrick said a couple of months was aggressive. Mr. McMahon said he did not want this to get out of control. Mr. Fitzpatrick said this process would expedite it. Mr. McMahon said they want the Town to commit to funding this.

Mr. Major said that was not the way that this should be done. He said we need to know what the Board of Education is prepared to do and willing to do. We need to have it priced out so that we know what the actual cost is before he can commit to spending dollars. Mr. Major said the Board of Education has to make some decisions on what the payback is going to be. It sounded like the Boosters revenue sounds to be considerably more than \$50,000. The other concern he has is that the public wants the ability to have some input. He said we owe it to the Town to present a proposal.

Mr. McMahon said the proposal was presented to the Town at the last referendum. He was appalled that a Town individual had to do the job that was promised five years ago. He turned it over to the Board of Education.

**Discussion/decision regarding Board of Selectmen's recommendations for General Fund Balance surplus appropriation for Special Town Meeting.** Mr. Bliss said that the OPEB recommendation is \$1.1 million. Mr. Landry said the Board of Finance wants to begin this fiscal year with a 12% general fund surplus. The math being done that would give you \$1,715,000.

The Building Committee is going to ask for about \$615,000 for the High School Auditorium. Ms. Weinstein said that number keeps creeping up. She asked if any of this could be pushed off so that it did not affect the construction. Mr. Landry said that the Building Committee would tell you they have already taken everything out that they could.

Mr. Major expressed concern about all the items that are coming up and feels that we may have already spent next years surplus. Mr. Bliss said we are not going to know the other numbers in time to have a Town meeting this year. He said we should ballpark what those numbers are and then set our priorities and decide which ones you want to spend out of the surplus this year.

Mr. Major said he thought the Building Committee would have been here tonight to discuss the \$615,000. If we have a Town Meeting and we end up voting on items that has not been properly presented to the Town and the Town has not had any opportunity to have any input. Mr. Bliss said we will just have to move the meeting to September. Mr. Major said he did not want to go through a scenario like Lachat. After much discussion they decided to wait until Tuesday night to hear more discussion.

Ms. Weinstein said that she respected the decision that the Historic District made about the Town Hall Roof, but wanted to share the feedback that she had gotten after the meeting. They were not aware that there was a public hearing and had no idea there was such a great differential between the costs of the roof. People were concerned that we were putting 100 year roof on a building that probably would not last 20 years. She was asked if we considered a wood roof or putting up solar panels. She said there were all these options that she felt were not fully explored at that meeting.

Mr. Major said he did have a conversation about using a wood roof and the cost differential is not that significant. He would be amazed if the roof would be here for 20 years. Mr. Major said if we defer action on this we could still get through an appropriate process by the first of September and would still allow for the roof to be done this fall.

Ms. Weinstein said that she would like to see the Historic District do another public hearing. Ms. Langlois said that she felt that the Selectmen did not understand what the Historic District's purview was. She said their purview is the aesthetics and their charge is very clear under the state statute. Mr. Major said that he did not feel that that the

statutory criteria that they were supposed to consider was properly represented to them at the last meeting.

Mr. Bliss said that we need to identify what the compelling reasons are to get the Historic District Commission to vote a different way. If we can not identify compelling reasons to do that then we are faced with getting another decision from the Historic District and if they turn it down, appealing it through the courts.

Ms. Weinstein said she would never feel it necessary to go the court route. She is just asking the Historic District to give the public one more chance. Mr. Bliss asked how much of a delay this would cause. Right now the completion date would be September. Mr. Landry was not sure.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion staying the supplemental appropriation for the Town Hall roof for \$250,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 and \$265,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009 until such time that we can reapply to the Historic District Commission. Mr. Major seconded. After discussion Ms. Weinstein withdrew her motion and Mr. Major withdrew his second.

Mr. Major made a motion that they do not authorize the First Selectman or any member of the Town to enter into a contract for the replacement of the roof until such time as the Board of Selectmen takes additional action. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Major, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Bliss no. Mr. Bliss said he voted against the slate roof and voted in favor of the asphalt roof. He said he was disappointed in the Historic District decision, but he respects their charter and ability to make those decisions. He stands by the decision that the Historic District Commission made.

**Discussion/decision regarding a date for a public hearing regarding ordinance regulating land use fees.-** This is to extend the ordinance for another year. Mr. Major made a motion to establish June 3<sup>rd</sup> as a public hearing regarding the ordinance regulating land use fees. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Tax Relief Program-** Mr. Bliss said that we are passed the deadlines for the abatement program and the new tax freeze program. With regard to the Abatement Program there are 78 approved applications totally \$463,176.46. With regard to the Freeze Program there are 21 applications for a total of \$5,722.20. With regard to the Deferment Program there are 14 applications so far totaling \$80,741.34. This program closes June 15<sup>th</sup>. The grand total is \$549,640.10. The cap on tax relief is \$600,000 and he did not anticipate that we would get another \$50,000 worth of deferments.

There were 77 individuals in the Weston Volunteer Fire Department who applied for a total of \$66,839.23. That is up a bit from last year, but they have done recruiting and have some new members.

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

**Executive Session – If needed- None**

**Adjournment.** At 9:55pm Ms. Weinstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted  
Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 9/04/08