

**Special Board of Selectmen's meeting****July 2, 2008**

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

**This meeting was recorded and video taped and the tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.**

Mr. Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:17pm

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Selectman Gayle Weinstein lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

**Discussion/decision regarding presentation of an outdoor movie for the Town over Labor Day weekend.-Paul Levin**

Dana Levin and Carl Bernstein said they are proposing to have an annual Weston Family Film outdoor theatre to be on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. This year that would be August 30<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 31<sup>st</sup>.

A company called CTS will provide the services for screening and projection. They do outdoor screening at Bryan Park every summer. The screen would be 30ft x 40ft and would be like having a drive-in movie without the cars. The location would be the field between the Middle School and High School in front of the wetlands area. The movie will be provided for free to the Towns people. Parks and Recreation is on board and providing services that they need to have.

The movie will be an older movie about 15 to 20 years old that would be rated G or PG. Ms. Weinstein asked about possibly a double feature where the first film would be for the younger kids. Mr. Major asked why this was not going through the Commission for the Arts. Mr. Bernstein said that they have been talking to the Commission for the Arts and they are aware. The reason it came through Parks and Recreation is because they need Dave Ungar's help to set this up and to be sure that there is police, EMT and fire department presence.

Mr. Major said he thought it was a great idea as long as they are talking among the different commissions. Mr. Major also asked what budget would it come out of. Mr. Bernstein said no ones. They need to figure out where the police cost would be paid from. Ms. Weinstein asked if they need permission from the Board of Education. Mr. Bliss said no, we should advise them.

Mr. Major made a motion to endorse the concept of having an outdoor movie for the Town over Labor Day weekend. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding application to the Historic District for the Town Hall Roof.** Mr. Bliss said that we had never voted to do an application however, we have sent

an application over to the Historic District and the Board of Selectmen will be attending that meeting after this one.

Mr. Major made a motion to reapply to the Historic District Commission concerning using asphalt shingles on the Town Hall Roof. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Cemetery Committee-** Ms. Weinstein said there was an issue with the makeup of the Cemetery Committee and who was going to be on it. She is concerned as to who wants to remain on the Cemetery Committee, how many opening we have after that and the mission as to what it is that we want them to do.

Mr. Bliss said the Cemetery Committee expired on June 30, 2008. He feels we should start with a whole new Cemetery Committee. The mission has been clear and it is to find a place where we can put the Cemetery. There have been lots of constraints. Ms. Weinstein said that we may need to define the mission for them. Mr. Major said that perhaps after Labor Day weekend they have a Town Meeting and have people attend the meeting and have someone like Pam Bochinski there because of her knowledge and layout for people what their options are and get some feedback.

Ms. Weinstein asked if there were other Town owned properties that had not been considered that should have been considered like the area next to Bisceglie. Mr. Bliss said that he felt we should have a whole new committee to examine all options. Mr. Major said he did not want to spend another \$10,000 to hire another consultant. Mr. Major said he was fine with reconvening a new Cemetery Committee. Mr. Bliss said by the next meeting we would put together another mission statement, advertise and sometime in August or September get a Committee in place.

John Conte looked at property on the northeast corner of Bisceglie Park. He said there is a wetlands area just below it. There is a gentle slope going down to the wetlands and easy access off of Newtown Turnpike. They did seven test holes which covered a good portion of the area. They found the same problem on this site as they have found in previous sites, which is bedrock. The area did not have water elevation to worry about, but it did have ledge. John said you need to have test holes throughout the area about 6 feet deep even though 8 feet would be more desirable. This is a problem in Weston.

Mr. Major asked what the likelihood would be to find a two acre piece in Weston. Mr. Conte said the good land where we could have gotten that is built on, unless you acquire a house and tear the house down. There are two problems we have with open space which are we are partners with the Nature Conservancy and the remaining open space area was provided to the Town through subdivision development. They had to give up 10% of their property when they did the subdivision and they always gave up 10% of the worst property which had the ledge, the wetlands and the ground water problems.

Mr. Conte said there were several problems with Bisceglie Park. The Saugatuck River is going through there, so we have extended wetlands and flood plain problems. Cemetery

approval falls under the Health Department so they have to approve the sites, approve the test holes and approve the grades.

Mr. Bliss said we would put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. He asked Ms. Weinstein if she would prepare a mission statement and she said yes.

**Discussion/decision regarding the proposed Fuel Efficient Vehicle Ordinance-**

Diedre Doran said that they were responding to the ordinance the Town Attorney Ken Bernhard had written up. Mr. Major said that they usually use expiration dates, but this section should read that it only applies for the list year of October 1, 2008. He felt it should be tied into the list year and not the fiscal year. Mr. Bliss said that the law that was passed has an expiration date.

Mr. Major said that this is supposed to be an incentive program and he has a problem with it being retroactive. It is supposed to encourage people to buy these cars not reward people who have already bought one. He said we have already done the budget. Ms. Weinstein said she agreed with Mr. Major and that we should remove the retroactive section. Mr. Major said his recommendation would be to remove the retroactive portion out and get it to the paper and schedule a public hearing for August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Major made a motion to schedule a public hearing on the proposal for a Fuel Efficient Vehicle Ordinance to be scheduled to be at 7:00pm at the first Selectmen's meeting in August. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the mission statement for the Lachat Committee-** Mr. Major asked that this item be deferred since he was unable to get it done.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation for the FAA redesign.**

Mr. Bliss said that they had approved \$58,000 and the filing had been delayed from January of this year to July 31<sup>st</sup>. There are currently 13 Towns in the group and there are other Towns in the process of going through and deciding whether or not to participate. In total we are being asked for \$61,941 which is an increase of \$3,941 which is a 6.8% increase. The increase is because of increased fees because of the delay with the filing. Mr. Bliss said that this would take them through the filing and court case.

Mr. Major said that his biggest concern was that if the other Towns do come in that the money does not get spent. He asked if there was a way to vote on it and the caveat would be if these Towns come in the money comes back to us.

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize a supplemental appropriation of \$3,941 to fund the Alliance for Sensible Space Planning to complete our contribution. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bliss said the Alliance has a 20min presentation that talks about where they are. Mr. Major said he would like to see the presentation presented to the Town.

**Discussion/decision regarding MERS Agreement.** Mr. Landry said that the Selectmen had received a letter from Donna Werfleman and she was fine with the agreement. Jen Ruddy is okay with the agreement. Mr. Bliss said the Mark Harper did not have a problem with the agreement, but still felt we should pay for his portion. Mr. Landry said he had a brief conversation with Diane Storck about the draft agreement, but she did not give the Board any comment.

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to offer the MERS Agreement to the four employees with a condition that it is to be executed and returned to the Town on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Major asked if any one of them decided to not execute the agreement, if they forever lose their ability to pay back the money. Mr. Bliss said no, they still have the opportunity to pay whatever the total amount is. The way the law is written is that you can do that up until you retire.

**Request for property tax refunds:**

<b>CAB East LLC</b>	<b>\$2,042.62</b>
<b>BMW Financial</b>	<b>\$793.33</b>
<b>Volvo Car Finance</b>	<b>\$180.83</b>
<b>VW Credit</b>	<b><u>\$84.43</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,101.21</b>

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to execute tax refunds in the total amount of \$3,101.21 as set forth on the agenda. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously

**Any other business to come properly before the meeting-** Mr. Bliss said that you cannot have any discussion or votes, but we can have this item on the agenda when we have a special meeting. Mr. Bliss said he can share information with you or someone who he designates can share information with you.

Mr. Bliss said that the Food Pantry is currently at Norfield Church and the church is desirous of using that space for other purposes. They have been working hard the last two weeks to try and find a place in Town. Currently the program is run by the Weston Women's League and is a volunteer program. Neither the Town nor the church has any participation in it. The food arrives through volunteer fundraising principally through the schools.

If we decide that the pantry comes onto Town property, there are some questions about public policy that need to be asked with regard to the program. He said that was what he wanted the Selectmen to think about.

**Executive Session- Police Chief Contract** At 8:25pm Mr. Major made a motion to enter into executive session. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE and DISCUSSION: The meeting was convened at 8:26 pm in the First Selectmen's Office by Chairman Bliss, with Mr. Major and Ms. Weinstein present. There was no discussion because they were not ready to discuss this item.

At 8:28pm Board voted unanimously (Mr. Major, motion; Ms. Weinstein second) to end executive session and reconvene in open session.

**Discussion/decision regarding Police Chief Contract- None**

ADJOURN: At 8:29 pm, a motion (Mr. Major, Ms. Weinstein second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted  
Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 9/4/08