

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

February 17, 2011

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dan Gilbert; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito;

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding Palmiero Agreement- The requested change to the agreement is something that is neutral to the town. It is something that Mr. Palmiero's attorney realized after the initial agreement was in place that might have had some financial implications for him.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Palmiero agreement (dated January 19, 2011) as presented. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding approval of an agreement between the Town of Weston and Flynn Financial LTD to perform Investment Advisory and Broker/Dealer services for the Town- Mark Libersher, Flynn Financial, Mike O'Brien, Rick Darling. The Board of Finance has put together a committee to vet some investment advisors to stay within our guidelines and boost the returns on our investments. They put out an RFP and ask them to give them an example of their portfolio. There were five that were returned and the Board of Finance picked two UBS and Flynn Financial. They are looking at investing \$15,000,000. \$5,000,000 with Flynn, \$5,000,000 with UBS, and they currently have \$4,000,000 invested with Janney right now in an agency portfolio. Both Bond Counsel and Town Attorney have looked at the contracts and said they were okay. They are looking from intermediate term quality bonds or basically a long term high quality bond. They are all US Treasury Notes.

Mr. Muller asked where the responsibility lay for coordinating between two managers in terms of concentration risk. Mr. O'Brien said both the treasurer and the Board of Finance will oversee what is going on within the portfolios.

Mr. Muller made a motion to authorize the Town of Weston to enter into an agreement with Flynn Financial LTD to perform Investment Advisory and Broker/Dealer services for the Town of Weston's general fund, and, furthermore, authorize the First Selectman to execute an agreement and related documents between the Town of Weston and Flynn Financial LTD. The amount of the general fund portfolio under the scope of this

agreement shall not exceed 5 million dollars. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/ decision regarding Board of Selectmen review and transmittal of the Board of Education's budget to Board of Finance. Ms. Weinstein said the entire staff should be commended for their outstanding efforts not only on this budget but for the work they do everyday to support the school system. She has a concern about utilizing the Internal Services Fund to the extent that it is proposed to off set this year's budget. If the Director of Finance is not concerned about the budget impact in the years going forward, then she is satisfied. Ms. Weinstein believes that the proposed 1.27% increase is responsible and responsive to the public's request for tax relief. However, in these economic times, we must look at more than the bottom line. The Board of Education and School Administration must start thinking of ways to deliver quality education with less administrative support staff.

Mr. Muller said that the entire team deserves a lot of credit for bringing in a budget that increases at a low level compared to the DRG A Towns that we compare ourselves against. Weston is a one industry Town and we produce an extremely good product that is competitive and wins justified awards. He feels there needs to be a business rigor to the production of that product. What he does not see is an efficiency contribution on the administrative side of the business. The First Selectmen's budget has taken some real sacrifices in the way that the business of running the Town is conducted. He would like to see the same concept of "sharing of pain" be more widespread throughout Weston than just the employees in Town Hall. Mr. Muller feels a small further cut can and should be made and that it can be done with zero impact on the product that the school system produces. He is convinced that a cut in the administrative support cost can and should occur. He does not accept the argument that those cuts should come from the educational side of this budget. The concept of one plus support staff per administrator cannot continue. He suggested that we reduce the operating budget by \$70,000. Across a student population of 2511 students it brings the cost in at under \$18,000 per student.

Mr. Gilbert said that many people come to Weston for our school system. One of the things you look for in any institution is the culture and the culture from his perspective has been an orientation to proactively address savings. The Internal Services fund is over funded and they should take a hard look at it after they get information from their financial advisors. If it is over funded, then surplus funds can be used to benefit the town. The other issue he has is the teacher's contract. That contract could wipe out any effort of trying to get control of administrator salaries or increase control of our salaries. The last contract varied from 15% to 17%, it was huge, the next one cannot come close to that. The Board of Finance has a serious obligation to Weston to deliver an affordable contract that is better than the last one.

Mr. Muller made a motion to transmit a recommended Board of Education Operating Budget to the Board of Finance totaling \$45,196,337. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Board of Selectmen review and transmittal of the First Selectmen's budget to the Board of Finance. Mr. Muller said it was a responsible budget and shows months of work and extremely hands on management of various departments of the Town of Weston government. The Town has felt the pain in producing this budget and he feels for the people who are being asked to make sacrifices. He truly hopes that the economy improves to such an extent, as quickly as possible, so this is seen as nothing other than a short term adjustment. He supports the number as proposed.

Mr. Gilbert said that he also supports the budget. He said that there were three line items that he did not believe would come in on budget; the police overtime and the snow removal budget, because history tells him it does not; he does not think that we can make the legal counsel budget. We have good people making these decisions and they think that they can get it done and he trusts them. He feels the First Selectman is over budget by \$177,000 this year, whoever is First Selectman next year will be another \$150,000 to \$200,000 over budget. He does support the budget because it shows a lot of hard work and discipline and an effort to attempt to deliver a budget that provides for the effective delivery of services and manages cost. We need to take one more step and that is the ten year plan. We need to put together a team of about ten people and challenge the assumptions that are in the budget book right now.

Ms. Weinstein said she asked both Chief Troxell and Joe Lametta to go back and take another look at their numbers. Both submitted letters to the Selectmen saying that they are still comfortable with the budget numbers as initially requested.

Mr. Muller said that as far as the forecasting, the process is done. There is a process followed in this Town to generate a ten year plan and it is done annually. The document is a matter of public record, it's posted, available and included in their budget book. It is detailed across the Town and makes certain assumptions. It looks at the budgetary impact and mill rate impact on the tax payers. A suggestion that this is not done is erroneous.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to transmit a recommended Board of Selectmen's Operating Budget to the Board of Finance totaling \$11,191,216. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Muller made a motion to forward the recommended Capital Budget to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,052,030. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to forward the Debt Service Budget to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$6,748,200. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Harriette Heller to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint

Harriette Heller to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Bruce E. Lorentzen to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Bruce E. Lorentzen to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation of \$155,000 for OPEB. Mr. Landry said that the Board of Finance voted to approve this supplemental last week and this amounts needs the vote of both boards. The Board adopted an approach which feathered in the annual appropriations into the general fund operating budgets. The first year we did \$1.1 million from the general fund balance, the next year we did an appropriation from the Town’s Operating Budget and also an appropriation from the general fund balance which was to continue for four years. This is the last year of planned supplemental appropriations from the general fund balance to the OPEB account.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriate of \$155,000 for funding OPEB. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding changes to the ATBM questions.

Ms. Weinstein said that she wanted to eliminate any confusion with the questions. It has been brought to her attention that people might think it was an either/or question since the two budget questions read “...as approved by the Board of Finance or amended at the ATBM.”, so she would like to change the wording to read “as determined by the Annual Budget Meeting be approved?”

Question #3 on the ballot, concerning a municipal cemetery, still needs to be sorted out. After much discussion this item was tabled to the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the change to the ATBM questions as follows:

Question #1- Shall the Town Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 as determined by the Annual Town Budget Meeting be approved?

Yes ()

No ()

Question#2- Shall the Board of Education Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 as determined by the Annual Town Budget Meeting be approved?

Yes ()

No ()

Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds

Christopher Aronson	\$11,568.52
Darren Pillo	\$7,499.20
CitiMortgage	\$7,111.48

Dana Duffy	\$5,653.70
Steven L. Ezzes	\$5,468.72
TD Bank	\$3,713.81
Robert Hoffman	\$3,550.74
Ferdinando Beccalli	\$142.54
ELRAC Inc.	\$107.07
CAB East LLC	\$120.26
VW Leasing LTD	\$209.97
Honda Financial Services	\$314.02
Toyota	\$392.37
Mercedes Benz Financial Lease	<u>\$979.52</u>
Total	\$46,831.92

Mr. Muller made motion to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$46,831.92. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Ongoing updates

Valley Forge Bridge- Tom Landry- After DOT inspects the rails and they are okay they will be installed the week of February 28, and the bridge would probably be opened the week after that.

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Ticker File, Discuss as updated

Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry- Ms. Weinstein said she signed more change orders for Tracy Kulikowski this week.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting. None

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of February 3, 2011- Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of February 3, 2011 as submitted. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:20pm Mr. Gilbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 03/03/11

