

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

April 24, 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 7:36pm

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Peggy Anderson to the Commission on Aging to fill the vacancy (Carlton Anderson) for a term to expire December 31, 2009. Mrs. Anderson said that her training was with childhood education which is very closely linked with aging people. She has listened to her husband Carlton on the commission so she understands a great deal of what is going on.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to appoint Peggy Anderson to the Commission on Aging to fill the vacancy of Carlton Anderson for a term to expire December 31, 2009. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request for replacement of Town Hall Roof- Richard Wolf. Mr. Landry had written a memo that Mr. Fitzpatrick had reviewed. The memo gives a brief introduction of the bids that were opened a few weeks ago. The low bid was from Silktown Roofing which came in at \$607,000. The other bid was Barrett Roofing which was \$912,000. H.B. Fishman and Company has accepted Silktown's proposal as the lowest responsive/responsible bid.

Mr. Landry said \$175,000 was originally put aside for this project and there is a balance of \$139,000 that is left of the \$175,000. Mr. Major said that he saw the one comment that if we used the asphalt shingle that we would save \$179,000. He wanted to know if we would have to replace the asphalt sooner than the slate and therefore ultimately cost us the same. Mr. Wolf said that the consultant said that the slate should last at least three times as long as the asphalt. Mr. Landry said that the costing that he used was 35 years for the life of an asphalt roof and 50 for the life of a slate roof.

Mr. Major asked if there was another viable alternative. Mr. Wolf said the committee thought of metal roof but it was slightly more expensive. He said neither the consultant nor Silktown have recommended going with the imitation slate. Mr. Major asked if it was the complexity of the roof that was driving the price. Mr. Landry said that we have four different roofs and that there was some fascia that needs to be redone. The building is occupied so there is scaffolding around the entire perimeter of the building.

Ms. Weinstein asked if the number contained contingencies for what they may find in the walls once they take off the roof. Mr. Landry said the number is only 5% of the construction number not soft cost. Mr. Major, Mr. Bliss and Ms. Weinstein felt that

\$179,000 for slate was too costly and would cover a number of items that need to be fixed.

Mr. Major suggested that this be brought to the Historic District Commission to see if they would approve the asphalt roof instead of the slate roof at their May 7th meeting. Mr. Wolf said that it was the position of the Building Committee that they cannot endorse the asphalt shingle. They feel it would degrade the appearance of the building.

Mr. Major made a motion to defer the matter to the Historic District Commission. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$4,000 for the purpose of conducting a structural analysis review and onsite inspection services for the Mehta property located on Walnut Lane (Lot 4). – Tracy Kulikowski and John Conte. Tracy said this is a situation where the property owner built something different than what they told the Conservation Commission that they were going to build. The property is still under a partial cease and assist order. He was supposed to purchase a precast concrete box culvert with full specs and have it put in place and a certain amount of fill put over it.

The property owner did not like that concept because the box culvert was going into Jennings brook, which was lower than both sides of the embankment. This would create a sag in the driveway to get to the house site which the design was approved by the Town of Weston. Mr. Conte said that from the information that he had gathered the owner did not want to have a sag in his driveway so they formed a box culvert on site without any engineering drawings or inspections. The culvert box is three sided and it now has several feet of rock and dirt on top of it to accomplish a level driveway.

The Conservation Commission at that point called in a consultant to look at the structure to see if it was safe before the Town of Weston would sign off on it. A cost estimate from the engineering firm was done which was approximately \$7,500 and 150% brought it to \$11,250. The property owner wrote the Town a check which was deposited. Mr. Major said we based the amount that the person contributes on the engineering firm's recommendation. We went 50% above that and the engineering firm miscalculated. Mr. Conte said that the engineering firm has spent a lot of time on it and now he is saying that they have spent more time than they estimated and now needs additional time to finalize the report.

Mr. Major said that was the number we were given and they should have anticipated that. We should go back to them and let them know that it was their error and they did not factor in enough and ask them to take care of it.

Discussion/decision regarding Kids in Crisis- Michael Ferguson- Denise Qualey said that they have put together some updates on the data. Mr. Major said his issue was not with the program but a complete lack of inform in the budget process.

Denise said that they have many referrals from the Middle School and Elementary School. Ms. Weinstein said that she was glad to see that they were servicing them because that was a big issue that she had. Mr. Ferguson said that that was why he said it is a program and not just a person. He said that the benefit of Bonnie not being in the Intermediate School is the schools are calling them directly. The families know that they can call Kids in Crisis 24 hours a day.

Ms. Weinstein asked if that was included in the contract as services for the Town. Mr. Ferguson said yes. Ms. Weinstein said she would like to have Bonnie start working with the eight graders. She said when you look at the demographic breakdown most of the kids that you are seeing are ninth graders and 14 year olds. Ms. Qualey said that a lot of the goal of the program initially is to target freshman.

Bonnie said she had been introduced to the eighth grade class during their orientation. She has already been established to the staff, the school, the parents, the community, everyone. She feels she will be able to put time into the incoming class. Mr. Major said as we develop the skills to identify the children and make the referrals that need to be made, either through Bonnie or directly to Kids in Crisis, we are going to be able to work with the program.

Ms. Weinstein asked for an explanation of the budget. Mr. Major said it was his understanding that we were paying for this individual and the cost for the individual. He said the budget breakdown show that is not the case. Ms. Qualey said it is not the individual it was the program. She said it is not just Bonnie's salary but there are expenses associated with the program. In addition to Bonnie, the Teen Talk Program does provide a lot more in terms of the backup.

David Goldberg said as a High School student that he had spoken to other students who said that whenever he walks by her office there were students conferencing with her. He said that Bonnie is also always quick to volunteer as a chaperone. Both Mr. Major and Ms. Weinstein said that the feedback they had gotten about Kids in Crisis was all positive.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve as a supplemental appropriation the sum of \$67,958 for the Teen Talk Program through Kids in Crisis subject to Board of Finance approval. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding OPEB Trust Fund Ordinance. Mr. Major made a motion to approve the OPEB Trust Fund Ordinance as submitted. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Selectmen's meetings for the month of May. After a brief discussion it was decided that we would have the meetings on May 8th and May 22nd as was approved by the Board of Selectmen at its November 15, 2007 meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding the Agreement for Paramedic Services between Norwalk Hospital, the Town of Wilton and the Town of Weston. - Jon Weingarten

Jon said that this was the fifteen year of the agreement. He said they maintain a five year agreement with about a 2 1/2 % increase per year. Mr. Major asked if there were any substantial changes in the agreement from the old agreement. Jon said not that he was able to review. Mr. Bliss said he had Town counsel review the agreement which they thought was fine. He did not have them contrast the previous agreement. Mr. Major said that he felt it would be prudent to do that.

Request for property tax refunds:

Leslie Riback	\$12,961.69
Sarah Schlechter	8,828.93
Charles J. Conroy	404.06
VW Credit	213.71
Volkswagen Credit Leasing LTD	100.20
Isabella Casanova	141.98
Honda Lease Trust	24.37
Total	\$22,674.94

Mr. Major made a motion to approve the property tax refunds totaling \$22,674.94 in accordance with the published agenda. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 25, February 7, February 28, March 6, March 20, 2008 and Public Hearing of April 3, 2008. This item was tabled to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting-

Mr. Bliss made a motion to add to the agenda discussion/decision regarding the STOCS Box that would come to our municipality. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bliss said that it was fundamentally a grant request that we made to DEMHS to have one of the boxes. Mr. Bliss said during 911 there were a lot of problems. He said we are in much better shape today and the one piece that was missing was the STOCS Boxes. He said you want to take one piece of equipment to the site of an emergency, open it up and have all the things you need there. We requested one and they approved that and now we need to sign the MOA.

Mr. Major asked if there was any cost involved. Mr. Bliss said storage but he did not know about maintenance. Ms. Weinstein asked if we had an incident and we cannot contact the person who has the STOCS Box are we in any way liable to our community or other communities. Mr. Bliss said that it should be stored in a place where we should be able to get at it. Sergeant Michael Ferullo is the Emergency Management Director and he will take charge of this. Mr. Major wanted to be sure that Sgt. Ferullo read paragraph 5, a through i and know that what we are signing off. He said this needs to go on someone's calendar and take care of what is required to be done.

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security and Town of Weston regarding Statewide Tactical On-Scene Communications System (STOCS) Box as presented. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Weston Board of Selectmen enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems necessary or appropriate and move that we authorize the First Selectman be authorize and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Weston Board of Selectmen and to perform all acts and things which he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents as it relates to the Memorandum Agreement concerning the STOCS Box. Ms. Weinstein seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Executive session- Update on criminal activity-Litigation- Personnel Issue. At 9:04 Ms. Weinstein made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE and DISCUSSION: The meeting was convened at 9:09 pm in the First Selectmen's Office by Chairman Bliss, with Mr. Major and Ms. Weinstein present. Also present was Town Administrator Landry.

The items of discussion in the executive session were the Palmiero heart and hypertension claim, the Mindell wrongful termination suit, the proposed employment contract with Police Chief John Troxell, and the status of efforts against gang violence in Connecticut, which included some sensitive and protected information. Mr. Bliss provided the updates on all of these items. No votes were taken.

After discussion, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Major, motion; Ms. Weinstein second) to end executive session at 9:49pm and reconvene in open session.

ADJOURN: At 9:50 pm, a motion (Ms. Weinstein, Mr. Major second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted
Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant

Approved 6/19/2008