

Board of Selectmen's Meeting**May 8, 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- Robert Machson and Margaret Wirtenberg lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Sandra Dadik as Weston's representative to The Southwestern Regional Communications Center Inc. Board of Directors for a term to expire May 31, 2009. Mr. Major made a motion to reappoint Sandra Dadik as Weston's representative to The Southwestern Regional Communications Center Inc. Board of Directors for a term to expire May 31, 2009. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the Board of Selectmen's recommendations for General Fund Balance surplus appropriation for Special Town Meeting. Mr. Landry explained a memo that he had written to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Finance has decided to draw down the excess in the fund balance to 12% of next year's budget at the beginning of the year. That is about \$2.6 million. The Board of Finance has appropriated in supplementals about \$600,000 to date. The amount left to go to Special Town Meeting is \$1,977,650.

The Board of Finance has talked about making a large down payment towards our \$12.1 million dollar liability for post employment benefits for school and town employees. They would use \$1,100,000 which they have endorsed in concept but have not finalized.

The Town Hall Roof would be approximately \$511,700. The year end operating deficits is just a number to keep in mind for fund balance. The Board of Selectmen have decided to make the MERS contributions for the employees who have not participated from the date that they should have participated and would prepay those portions which is estimated at \$55,000.

There is money that we have to pay for Cartbridge the end of June which we will get back. The \$200,000 for Cartbridge, \$10,000 estimated deficit and the \$55,000 MERS contribution brings you to the year end deficit number of \$265,000 to be reserved.

Mr. Landry told the Selectmen about the bids that come in for the Auditorium. He said if the low bid is legitimate that they are looking at \$1.9 million. We have \$1.5 million so to do all that work you would be looking at another \$400,000. The \$1.5 million includes the

\$300,000 for the seats, money left over in the roof capital, the capital roof account for the High School and then from the transfer from the Middle School Auditorium that was to be used for the roof. That brings you up to the \$1.5 million.

Mr. Major said that in order to have a Town Meeting before school is out it would have to be the week of June 8th. In order to get the legal notice in the Forum the Board of Finance would have to have a special meeting no later than May 28th to approve the spending of the fund balance.

Mr. Landry said if we wait for Town Meeting to appropriate the money for the Town Hall Roof and the time it takes to get the slate we will be in a time frame where we will not want to do the roof. Mr. Major asked if they could vote to appropriate \$250,000 for FY 2007-2008 and appropriate \$250,000 for FY 2008-2009. Mr. Landry said yes but if they do vote that way then we have to realize that now the \$1.9 million is now \$1.7 million.

Mr. Major said from the \$2.6 after you take out the OPEB, Town Hall Roof, Year End Operating Deficit and the Auditorium at \$400,000 you are left with \$325,000.

Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Bliss if he had spoken to any of the other Towns about their OPEB liability and how they were covering it. She said she had been to two CCM meetings where they are not funding it as actively as we are. Mr. Bliss said that the larger cities are on a different time schedule than we are. They are hurting financially so they are being very restrictive. Mr. Bliss said that he felt we should put a big chunk in because it helps our payments later on.

Mr. Landry said we have 30 years to fund it and we can fund it in that year. We take a credit rating hit if we do not. In our case the group of teachers is coming up in the next 10 years so we have this bigger than normal liability early so if we do not do this, we will not be leveling payments and will be subjected to large ups and downs.

Mr. Major said that we are doing this with dollars where we benefited from a very robust economy. If we step back and do not fund this now, he is not sure given our grand list growth that we are going to have the luxury of having the chunks of money to do something down the line.

Mr. Robert Machson asked about the bids for the High School Auditorium. He said he thought it was very odd that they were so different. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that there was nothing unusual about it. The bids have to be vetted out to determine if there is a responsible bid.

Mr. Major said we are down to \$325,000 and we have to give someone some direction where we want that money to go. Ms. Weinstein asked about Mr. Bliss saying we could bond the projects in 2010 and was there any chance of bonding them sooner. Mr. Bliss said we have to wait until October 2008 to see what the property reval produces. Mr. Major said it would be an economic whammy by pushing it up a year. Ms. Weinstein

stressed the point that she wanted to be sure that we do not push the Kaestle Boos report aside.

Mr. Major asked that Mr. Bliss and Mr. Landry give to him and Ms Weinstein some numbers to address some of the items that they really have no concept dollars on. Lyons Plain Fire House got the message that the Town was in fact prepared to spend some money.

Ms. Weinstein asked if the Booster Club had come back with solid numbers for the Booster Barn and the stands. She said that she felt people in town were in favor of spending money on it. Mr. Major said that he wanted to know what some of the projects were before we start saying this is the one we are going to do. He said that he was comfortable not necessarily allocating down to the 12% saying we have money to spend when we have the appropriate information before us.

Mr. Landry said that he would talk to the Board of Finance about having a Special Meeting on May 27, 28 or 29 and a June 12th target date for a Special Town Meeting. The Selectmen will discuss this further at the May 22nd meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding supplemental appropriation request for Town Hall Roof replacement. Mr. Major made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$250,000 for FY 2007-2008 and \$262,000 for FY 2008-2009 subject to the Board of Finance approval. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding cemetery. Mr. Bliss said Richard Miller had called him with a suggestion on the cemetery. He said since we do have space for a Mausoleum on the Coley property, which will take care of ashes, that we think about proceeding with that. Mr. Major said that we should give this back to the Cemetery Committee and have them look to see if it is feasible aesthetically and if it will work. Mr. Bliss asked Mr. Wolf to make the cemetery committee aware of this.

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.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting dated January 25, 2008 as submitted. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes dated February 7, 2008 as amended. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes dated February 28, 2008 as amended. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Major made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of March 6, 2008. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of March 20, 2008. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the public hearing minutes of April 3, 2008. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The members of the public that attended the meeting were added.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting-

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion/decision to change the date of the Board of Selectmen's meeting from June 5, 2008 to June 3, 2008. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bliss explained that he could not attend the meeting on June 5th and wanted to change it to June 3rd. Mr. Major made a motion to move the Selectmen's meeting of June 5, 2008 to a Special Selectmen's meeting June 3, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:43pm Mr. Major made a motion to enter into executive Session. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session- Litigation and Contract Negotiation.

ATTENDANCE and DISCUSSION: The meeting was convened at 8:44 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 John Troxell employment contract and the Mindell wrongful termination suit, the proposed employment contract with Police Chief John Troxell. No votes were taken.

After discussion, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Weinstein, motion; Mr. Major second) to end executive session at 9:11pm and reconvene in open session.

ADJOURN: At 9:12 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

