

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

**June 2, 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-** Dawn Egan led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Discussion/decision regarding Solar Panels on Town buildings- Don Gary**

DCS energy contacted the Town and wants to put photovoltaic arrays on appropriate Town-owned buildings at no cost to the municipality. Don Gary met with the DCS Energy Company who would apply for the available grants. They would keep the investment tax credit, and the renewable energy credits.

Mr. Gary with Jack Davidoff and Dan Clarke met with two of their techs. They examined all the municipally owned building in Weston and came up with a list of buildings. The Middle School has three meters so they can go for 27 kilowatt hours. Based on the size and orientation of the various buildings there is a potential for an array on the Library, one ½ of an array on the fire house and gym building and an array on the High School, three arrays on the Middle School, eight and three quarter's kilowatt hours on the Intermediate School, nine kilowatt hours on the bus barn, administrative building, highway department and Hurlbutt. In total it works out to be 94 kilowatt hours of potential electricity.

Based on the average sunshine for the year, it translates to 154,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year. At an average cost of 14 cents, it would be approximately \$21,500 worth of electricity savings per year.

DCS Energy puts the panels in for free and they are leased to us over a five year period for \$1.00. At the end of five years, they become ours for \$1.00. They are fully maintained during the course of the five year period. A photovoltaic panel has probably a 20 year useful life. After the five year period we will have several years left of good productive capacity.

Ms. Weinstein said that we will get a structural engineer to verify the loads on all the roofs. If we do not have the load limits currently, they will make sure that the building is completely vetted before they put the solar panels on it. That is the one cost that she will come back to the Board of Selectmen for and they are in the process of getting bids.

Mr. Gary said that there is a manufacturer warranty on the panel for 20 years and our roofs are all warranted. Dan Clarke will be interfacing between the installation people and the warrantors of our roofs to make sure that when the panels are put on the roofs, that it does not dissipate any of the warranties.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Donald Saltzman to Area Nine Cable Council for a term to expire June 30, 2014.** Mr. Saltzman said he has been the delegate to the area Nine Cable Council for 25 years. During that time he was able to get grants to build three studios in Town, the Meeting Room, the Commission Room and the Library. Sometime after the summer he will be getting another grant through AT&T and he will upgrade the cameras in the Meeting Room to High Definition.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Donald Saltzman to the Area Nine Cable Council for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding a request from the Warm-Up Fund- Dawn Egan**

Dawn Egan said they are requesting the same amount of money that they have requested from the Town for the past two years which is \$6,000 to benefit 53 households in Weston this year. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muller said as we get towards the end of the fiscal year, and if there are additional monies available he feels that warm-up fund is one of the organizations that we should look to allocate too. Mr. Gilbert said he agreed completely. Ms. Weinstein said we have \$13,000 available in this current year and if they wanted to increase the amount to \$8,000 she had no problem with it.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve an appropriation of \$8,000 from the Community Grant Budget to the Weston Warm-up Fund. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/interview of Arne de Keijzer; Susan Moch; Donald Saltzman; Amy Sanborn; Hal Shupack for the Select Committee on Charter Revision.**

**Arne de Keijzer** – He had been chairman of the Board of Ethics and has enjoyed doing that. Over time, he has gotten a reputation for fairness and the ability to listen and he thought this would be another great opportunity. He feels his ability to do research and his ability as an organizer will be useful.

**Susan Moch**- She would like to serve on the committee because of her experience as a Town Moderator and from seeing what a town form of government can do to define a community such as Weston. She realizes that the Charter is outdated in a number of ways, but one of the things she would like to ensure is that, in a rush to update, we do not lose what makes Weston essentially Weston.

**Donald Saltzman-** He has been roaming around Town Hall for 30 years and has been active in almost every phase of municipal government. He has been using the Town Charter for 30 years and it is very difficult because there are things that are very old and things that are very basic. He helped write two revisions of the Town Plan. His vision is to go through the Charter line by line and vet it.

Amy Sanborn and Hal Shupack removed their names from consideration.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointments to the Select Committee for Charter Revision.** Ms. Weinstein said that all of the people that have put their names in are truly outstanding and she is very appreciative that so many people have stepped-up and want to serve the Town. Not more than 1/3 of the people that they appoint tonight can hold any other public office and not more than a bare majority of one political party.

After some discussion about the candidates Mr. Muller made a motion to appoint Woody Bliss, Dick Bochinski, Nina Daniel, Ken Edgar, Dennis Tracey, Arne de Keijzer, and Susan Moch to the Select Committee on Charter Revision for a term to expire June 30, 2012

**Discussion/decision to approve a resolution to form a Charter Revision Committee.** Ms. Weinstein said that she went back and read the State Statute and it states that we need a formal resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to form a Charter Revision Committee at the May 19, 2011 Board of Selectmen's meeting. The committee will consist of seven (7) members, with not more than a bare majority of one political party.

The mission of the Charter Revision Committee is to review the existing Charter, gather input from elected officials, the public and the Town Administrator, and draft the recommended amendments to the existing Charter. All actions of the Committee will be in accordance to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-187 through Section 7-201.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the resolution to form a Charter Revision Committee. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding a Mission Statement for the Weston Select Committee on Sustainability.** Deirdre Doran, chairman of Weston's Sustainability Committee read the Mission Statement for the Weston Select Committee on Sustainability. A copy of the Mission Statement is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the Mission Statement for the Weston Select Committee on Sustainability as submitted. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/ decision regarding a supplemental appropriation to cover salary increases for non union employees.** Ms. Weinstein said when they had discussions

about union employee's salary increases they did not discuss the 11 non-union employees that do not have a bargaining unit to bargain for them. They had put 1% in the budget as a place holder and the majority of the union employees got at least 1.75%. She would like to give the non-union an additional .75% increase so that the non-union employees have parity with the union employees. The cost of the adjustment is approximately \$6,818 which would be retroactive to July 1, 2010.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,818 to cover salary increases for non-union employees subject to Board of Finance approval. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Request for property tax refunds**

<b>CAB East LLC</b>	<b>\$81.60</b>
<b>VW Credit Inc.</b>	<b>\$841.93</b>
<b>Hiro K. Mueller</b>	<b><u>\$588.76</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,512.29</b>

Mr. Muller made a motion to refund property taxes in the amount of \$1,512.29 as listed on the June 2, 2011 agenda. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Open Items**

**Ongoing updates**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** We applied for a FEMA grant to fix an undersized culvert on Deepwood Court. We came in third out of sixteen applications, so now they are going to do a cost benefit analysis to determine if we will get some money to fix the culvert.

Another grant came out as a result of the January storms to help fix any other culverts or storm water issues that we have had.

**Ticker File, Discuss as updated**

**Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry-** No new news

**Any business to come properly before the meeting**

Mr. Muller made a motion to add to the agenda an update on the Lachat house. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Carol Baldwin said that she has been contacted with many offers of help. She had Wilton architect Rob Sanders look at the interior and exterior of the house and he believes its worth saving. A letter from Rob Sanders and the Historic District Commission are attached to the minutes. Kiwanis has expressed interest in restoring the homestead.

There are significant grants available but to apply she needs to have a 501(c)3 tax exempt status. She is currently looking into some dormant 501(c)3's and has a lawyer who has offered to help her.

A potential overall vision for the farmhouse is to restore the bottom floor and update the second floor as a dwelling for a caretaker who would also be involved in running the Town farm. She has Westonites who are interested in contributing financially to the restoration of the farmhouse in the context of a Town farm. She had hoped the Green Village Farm Initiative proposal was on tonight's agenda. She has raised \$55,000 so far. Ms. Weinstein said that we cannot discuss any potential use of the property until we negotiate a change in the agreement that we currently have with the Nature Conservancy.

Ms. Weinstein said she would recommend that Carol start with the 501(c)3 to raise money privately and at the same time, come in she will work help Carol with grants. Carol can come back to our meeting next month and give us an update.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Harvey Bellin to the Area Nine Cable Council for a term to expire June 30, 2013.** Harvey said it was fun and he wanted to do it again.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Harvey Bellin to the Area Nine Cable Council for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of May 19, 2011.** Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2011 Special Board of meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session- Police Personnel- Rick Phillips and John Troxell- Cancelled**

At 8:58pm 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 7/7/11