

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 3, 2013

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

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

Pledge of Allegiance-

A moment of silence was observed in memory of John Hammerslough.

Discussion/decision regarding Bruce Lorentzen to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Lorentzen said he has been a commission member for about 3 years and in that time they have seen some changes. There has been an increase in use of the Senior Center and an increase in the use of Dial a Ride. More and more folks who live in Weston and who are getting along in age want to stay in this Town and he thinks that's a good thing. About 17% of Weston is of the elderly age which is 60 years of age. We must find a way to incent them to stay.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Bruce Lorentzen to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from Julia Morledge and Colleen Moore regarding eliminating plastic bags in Weston. This item will be on the January 17th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding approval of FY2011-12 year end operating budget transfers.- Rick Darling, Finance Director- Rick Darling said even with all the storm damage expenses that we had the Board of Finance voted to turn back \$100,000 to the general fund. Ms. Weinstein asked if were able to credit any of the FEMA money back to budget. Mr. Darling said we were not because of GAAP and our auditors. We had to take in the revenue in the revenue section and reflect the gross expenditures across the board.

Going forward, they will be handling storm related funds differently. Last year snow removal cost was very light so we were able to absorb those additional expenses however, going forward we are going to account for those in a separate special revenue fund which is common practice for other municipalities and also recommended by the auditors. When we are reviewing the budget in order to avoid the jumps in line items we can book those to a special revenue fund so it doesn't impact the operating budget.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Alycia Angus to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Alycia said she would like to do more than they had done to promote both walking and cycling. She feels like they have a lot more to do and so she would like to be reappointed.

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 3, 2013

Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Alycia Angus to Weston's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Donald F. Gumaer to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Gumaer said that he moved here 19 years ago with his wife and two young children. He is a caterer and a party planner for over 40 years.. He's worked with the Kiwanis club, the Historical society and the library. He thinks he could bring something new to the commission.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Donald Gumaer to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding assault weapon ordinances- Mr. Tracey said we passed a resolution after the Newtown tragedy resolving to take all the appropriate steps that we can to improve security in Town and take a leadership role and work with the police department and Board of Education in doing so. He has been working with the Chief of Police, Sgt. Ferullo, Chairman of the Police Commission and others to craft legislation that is appropriate for our community and will provide greater security within Weston and hopefully will be a model for other municipalities and even at the State and Federal level.

It is in the form an amendment to our existing firearms ordinance. It has three elements 1. Bans assault weapons and automatic weapons as well as high capacity magazines which are not appropriate in our Town for sporting purposes. 2. It requires save and secure storage of weapons when they are not being used and 3. It requires the registration of all firearms in Town. In particular, the storage will prevent those who are appropriate for use of guns from taking them and using them inappropriately.

Mr. Muller said there was a deletion to residential target practice which was included in the definition in the early ordinance but was excluded in the proposed. In section c it permits by exclusion those over 16 to discharge a firearm for target practice.

Mr. Tracey said residential target has been permitted under certain circumstances within the Town of Weston for generations. In fact it was residential target practice that was specifically allowed by the 1990 Firearms Ordinance. It has been accepted that residential target practice as long as it is controlled and regulated is acceptable within the Town of Weston. We can change that, but the proposal does not propose to change that. Residential target practice has always required a permit from the Chief of Police and has always required that the landowner prove that there are backstops and appropriate protections for neighbors. None of that has been changed in the proposed ordinance. The controls on residential target practice are in the hands of the Chief of Police.

Ms. Weinstein said the Weston Gun Club does allow children as young as 12 to shoot at targets. She gave Mr. Tracey a copy of their by-laws. Ms. Weinstein said she would like the verbiage changed to read no one under the age of 12 may shoot but between the ages of 12 and 16 a parent needs to be present.

Mr. Muller said the bigger issue is the priority of laws. He said what is the priority of what we can do locally, what the State can do and what the Federal Government can do? How does everything mesh together and how do we ensure that what we are doing now that we are not either compromising our ability to do something later on or taking steps that are not as far as what may come out of the State or National level.

Mr. Tracey said a local municipality cannot pass any legislation that is inconsistent with State or Federal legislation. If we were proposing to allow the use of guns that were prohibited by state law we could not do that. What we can do is pass reasonable regulations that go further than a similar State or Federal regulations as long as we do not violate individual's constitutional rights. The proposed ordinance is a reasonable restriction tailored to the Town of Weston which is not inconsistent with anything in state law and respects constitutional rights to own and bear arms. There were comments from Mark Harper, Donald Saltzman and Jess DiPasquale.

Mr. Tracey said he would meet with some members of the community and the police and bring it back to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding approval of Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC). Mr. Landry said that during hurricane Sandy we needed another wood chipper and couldn't find one. We were able to find one through Houston. There are some other Connecticut communities that have been a member of this buying co-operative. We were able to find a chipper for approximately \$41,300 which hasn't been paid for as yet, and we get an 11.5% discount if we are a member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. We are hoping to get FEMA to reimburse some of the cost.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract of Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC). Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds

Ira Saferstein	\$7,129.32
Mark Sullivan	\$1,707.96
Mark J. Hastings	\$207.17
D.Claude Morest	\$214.26
BMW Financial Services	\$638.73
USB Leasing	<u>\$553.23</u>
Total	\$10,450.67

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 3, 2013

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$10,450.67 as listed on the January 3, 2013 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Personnel Handbook- Mr. Tracey said he would like to consider part 1 and 2 together but neither he nor Mr. Muller has had a chance to look at it. This will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Tracey asked about regionalization. Ms. Weinstein said she had no news. It has been discussed at the Police Chief's level but as Chief Troxell had said, no one wants to give up the control of having the dispatch center not in their Town. Mr. Muller said the minute that there is a hint that the State is going to tell us what we need to do that is when we need to be proactive and look to get something in place.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting. None

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of December 6, 2012. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the December 6th Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:47pm Mr. Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 01/17/13