

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**June 3, 2010**

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-** Sandra Dadik leads the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Accept the resignation of Hal Mathews from the Cemetery Committee effective immediately-** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to accept the resignation of Hal Mathews from the Cemetery Committee effective immediately. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Sandra Dadik as Weston representative to the Southwest Region of C-Med for a term to expire June 30, 2011**

Ms. Dadik has lived in Weston since 1975, has been an EMT since 1980, and an instructor since 1985. She had been part of C-Med since its inception about 20 years ago. C-Med coordinates the dispatching between the hospitals and ambulances

Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint Sandra Dadik as Weston Representative to the Southwest Region of C-Med for a term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Decision regarding the reappointment of Dennis Tracey to the Nature Center Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012-**Mr. Tracey has been living in Weston for five years and has been on the Nature Center Building Committee for a year. He is interested in the issue and feels he has something to contribute as a lawyer. There are a lot of legal issues surrounding Lachat and he feels they are starting to make progress trying to develop a plan in conjunction with or separate from the Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Dennis Tracey to the Nature Center Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Kathleen Faila as the Town Historian for a term to expire June 30, 2012.** She has been the Town Historian for many years and has written a book about Weston, which she presented to the Town. She was involved with saving the Heady House. She continues to be interested in working on projects for the Town. She has an idea to put historical information on the website that

can be downloaded. A lot of the material could come from her book, the historical society and pieces already written, and we could use voices from people in Town to narrate.

Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint Kathleen Failla as the Town Historian for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Eric Bell and P.J. Sacchetta to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012.**

Eric Bell lived in Weston for 15 years and has two kids in the school system. He owns an Insurance Agency in New York so he deals with a lot of property casualty, liability, workers comp and some medical. He been on the committee for four years and would like to continue.

P.J. Sacchetta has lived in Weston since 2000 and has been on the committee since it started in approximately 2002. His background is financial services and insurance. He does everything but liability. Their goal is to plan ahead as much as possible.

The Selectmen were very appreciative to the committee and thanked them for saving the town a tremendous amount of money. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Eric Bell and P.J. Sacchetta to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Landry said that Dr. Kaiko did not want to be reappointed.

**Discussion regarding Revson Field- Don Gary.** Mr. Gary gave background information on Revson field. In order to construct the 3-5 school and enlarge the High School, the only place the engineers could find marginal percolation rates were on Revson Field. Angus McDonald designed a septic system that would accept the effluent from the Zenon plant under Revson field.

In addition, a decision was made that Revson field was the best place to stock pile top soil. The top soil from the area for the 3-5 school as well as the area for the new part of the high school was stockpiled on Revson field which was driven over with tri axles and heavy trucks.

Fletcher-Thompson ("F-T") were the architects for the school building projects and F-T hired Blades and Govern who were specialists in landscape architecture who designed the fields, roadways and most of the site work.

The School Building Committee ("SBC") was the general contractor for the whole project. The SBC hired O&G as their construction manager to keep track of and police everything that was going on from all the subs. The SBC put out the bid for the various aspects of the site work and choose a company called Shawn's Lawns to do the work. The original plans called for top soil and seed but the problem with that was it would take 18 months before you could play on it, so that the baseball team would lose two seasons.

The Town got a good deal on sod, from one of the baseball parents, which would save two playing seasons. Unfortunately, the sod did not work well because when the field was flattened out with a heavy roller it compacted the field and the roots from the sod did not penetrate.

The SBC sat down with Town counsel to go through the steps as to who did what. Before any of this started, the field was in poor shape and did not drain well at that time. After looking at everything, there was no single entity or a combination of entities that you could blame this on. The SBC decided it would be a waste of Town money to institute lawsuits against any, or all of the people involved.

The SBC had the field surveyed and it is properly tilted, however there are “bird baths” in there. The decision was made to bring in a machine that would fracture the soil so that it would drain better, and put top soil down in the low spots. Unfortunately, the load of top soil, as well as a load that was used in Long Island, was not properly screened and there were pieces of glass and tile and other foreign material in it. The top soil company came out and raked it twice and as far as Mr. Gary knows no one has been hurt by foreign material.

Currently the School Facilities Sub-Committee and Parks and Recreation are working on Revson. The Building Committee has not taken up this issue for three years.

Mr. Machson said that someone had sent him clippings from a Norwalk paper from the early 80’s detailing the problems on Revson field. We knew we were going to make a ball field out of it and knew there would be problems and there was no mention in the documents that he reviewed. Ms. Weinstein said we have tried to tighten up the contracts that we are currently working on. Everything is approved by Town Attorney, and even before the bid specs go out they need to be signed off and approved by the attorney and insurance agent. Mr. Machson feels before any money is spent, the Town should determine whether 1. They want to spend any money on this field and 2. How much money do we want to spend on the field?

**Discussion/decision regarding a request from the Food Pantry of \$1,000 from the Community Grants Budget for FY 2009-2010- Betsy Peyreigne**

Ms. Peyreigne estimated the Food Pantry is servicing about 120 and 130 households in Town. The amounts of food that each family needs are greater because the households are bigger. There are no food drives by the schools in the summer so she hopes that they have enough monetary donations to go shopping. Every week she gets free Government Issue and this week was the worst she’s seen because their donations are down, as well.

She spends about \$1,000 in Walmart every two to three weeks. She asked the town to donate \$1,000 to subsidize one of her shopping trips. After some discussion Mr. Muller proposed that we should give the Food Pantry \$2,000.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve a request from the Food Pantry for \$2,000 from the Community Grants Budget for FY 2009-2010. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to sign the assignment and assumption of lease agreement between The Weston Food Pantry, LLC and The Community Food Pantry, Inc.** The current lease with the Food Pantry said that we can assign the lease. The Food Pantry will go from being an LLC to a 501(c)3. Mr. Muller made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Assignment and Assumption between the Weston Food Pantry, LLC and The Community Food Pantry, Inc. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding accepting a gift of cushions worth \$234 from Gayle Weinstein.** Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the gift of the incredibly handsome beige and black buffalo check cushions, to cushion our bodies during meetings in Town Hall in the amount of \$234 from Gayle Weinstein. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Muller, Mr. Gilbert yes, Ms. Weinstein abstained.

**Discussion/decision regarding proposed award for Old Hyde repaving project to A & J Construction in the amount of \$212,871.** There was no discussion on this item. It was postponed to the next meeting.

## Open Items

### Ongoing update

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** We received an Emergency Management Performance Grant for \$4,685 which helps to offset having Sgt. Michael Ferullo work as our Emergency Management Director. Sgt. Ferullo has applied for the COPS hiring program grant. This grant would allow us to hire a police officer and would cover salary and benefits for three years. After that we are obligated to continue with that officer for one or two years.

Charlene Hillman received a \$2,000 grant from United Way from the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" grant program.

**Booster Barn-** Toilets are installed and a trench is being dug for the electrical work to tie in the press box and scoreboard. We now have DEP approval.

**State Legislative Update-** No word on whether they are going to come back to session to vote on the conveyance tax this year.

**FEMA individual Assistance-** The federal government approved individual assistance for homeowners. The grant money will only cover damage to primary living spaces which are bedrooms or to making the home habitable. SBA will provide low interest long term loans to cover all other personal property. These loans are income dependent.

**Tickler file, discuss as updated**

**Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry-** The state has not yet responded to 130 change orders that have been submitted.

**Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's minutes of May 1, and May 19, 2010 and the Board of Selectmen's minutes of May 6, 2010.** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's minutes for the Special Board of Selectmen's meetings of May 1 and May 19, 2010 and the Board of Selectmen's minutes of May 6, 2010. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Muller made a motion to add a discussion of the Youth Services Fund. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Muller read a letter that they had wanted to put in the forum but was unable to because of the length of the letter. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Weinstein said that Ms. Monn [Youth Services Program Coordinator] works very hard to set reasonable costs to get top quality instruction and to make sure that the programs can run sufficiently without charging a lot of overhead. Mr. Gilbert's letter made it seem like Ms. Monn was overcharging for programs, which is not what happened. Ms. Weinstein said that Mr. Gilbert owes Ms. Monn and Ms. Ferrara an apology as well as the Commission for Youth.

Mr. Gilbert said Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Muller had made a simple issue complex. They took the money from the Youth Services fund and paid for a Board of Education employee. If he were responsible, he would have brought the Commission for Children and Youth in and asked them if there was a way to effectively use the money for the kids and their parents. Ms. Weinstein said that it was not the Commission's money. Mr. Gilbert felt that Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Muller took Town money and spent it on a Board of Education employee.

Mr. Muller said one thing that Mr. Gilbert did, which he finds personally hurtful, is that he took a discussion that is held in the meeting room and turned it into a personal attack on the integrity of him and Gayle. He feels that Mr. Gilbert has stepped over the line.

Ms. Weinstein said that there were many times that she, Glenn and Woody did not agree on issues. At the end of the day, they all respected each others position. They did not bring party politics into the room. Once they were in the room it was about doing what was in the best interest of the Town. She felt that Mr. Gilbert's letter was a personal attack on her and her opinions. Ms. Weinstein said that Mr. Gilbert should be respecting what both she and Mr. Muller have to say; the same way they respect what he has to say.

At 8:55pm Mr. Muller made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed police contract. The Selectmen will come out of that and take a public vote. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session- Police Contract Negotiation- Rick Phillips**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 8:57 pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Gilbert present. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Landry, and Police Commission Chair Phillips.

DISCUSSION: The meeting was called to update Board members on the Police contract, which has been ratified by the union. Key elements in the negotiated agreement were noted and discussed. No votes were taken.

ADJOURN: At 9:16 pm, a motion (David Muller, Dan Gilbert second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

POLICE CONTRACT SETTLEMENT: A motion to accept, and authorize the First Selectman to sign, the proposed contract agreement as presented between The Town of Weston and Weston Police Local # 1493, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Council #15, for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013 ( David Muller, Dan Gilbert second) passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN: At 9:18 pm, a motion to adjourn the meeting (Dan Gilbert, David Muller second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 7/8/10