

Board of Selectmen's
June 7, 2012

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

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 7:34pm

Pledge of Allegiance- led by the Weston Special Olympic team

Recognition of the Special Olympians- the Selectmen congratulated all of the Special Olympians and praised them for their efforts.

Discussion/decision regarding a request from Homes with Hope-Hal Shupack and Jeff Weiser- Jeffrey Weiser said the request this year is for \$14,853 dollars which is consistent with each of the past four years. They have used these funds to support case management that they provide to their clients. In the emergency shelter, Gillespie Center and Hoskins Place their records indicate that they have had the following number of residents from Weston, in 2005 - 3, 2006- 6, 2007- 5, 2008-3, 2009- 4, 2010-10 and 2011-8. They range in age from 26 to 53 with an average age of 42. All finished high school and 75% have some college. The length of their homelessness ranged from less than a month to over two years.

Mr. Shupack said they just had their audit and got a clean bill of health from their auditors. They have audits from HUD and DSS and have always gotten a clean bill of health.

Attached to the minutes is the request for funding from Homes with Hope Inc. Mr. Tracey moved to approve \$14,853 from the Community Grant Account to Homes with Hope, Inc. for FY2012-2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Town facilities review- Informal Facilities Committee- Hal Shupack said after studying some of the facilities they came to an agreement amongst the three of them as to what was proper as far as a recommendation is concerned. They parceled out a section to each of the members and wrote a rough draft presentation.

Mr. Shupack said he looked at the School Administration Building, the portable, the Intermediate School, and the South House and East House of Hurlbutt Elementary School. The schools gleam like a hospital. South House now has the Early Learning Center which takes up almost an entire building. That is where we have the senior center. There is a small Gym in that place that isn't being used that could be used in the future for the Senior Center. East House is a kindergarten and really suits itself for kindergarten. They looked at the School Administration Building which is crowded and is being used to its absolute capacity. The way the building is designed, with the heating ducts on the

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second floor, it doesn't make good use of the second floor. If you wanted to use the upstairs and expand you would have to put an elevator in and redo all HVAC work upstairs.

The Town uses half of the portables and the school uses the other half. The school staff in the portables could easily move to the Intermediate school. Having the town building department over there does not work to the best possible way. If we move the building department back to Town Hall that would mean that the upper portion of the police department would have to move. The feeling was that the Town really needs a Community Center and it would be ideal if we took the portables and turned it back to the community as a Community Center and a Senior Center.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said the charge was to see if we could get the Town Hall consolidated. The police department space is dysfunctional. They have tried to utilize that space the best that they can but that space needs a lot of study and needs more square footage to operate. The thought process was now we move over to the communication center but it is in very bad shape. Ms. Weinstein said one of her concerns is neither department is up to code.

The fire department has a lot of square footage in the building, but it may need some reconfiguring. The Fire Department would not give them permission to look at the Lyons Plains fire house, so they are at a disadvantage to see if there is some potential to maybe capture some of that space as long as it works for the Fire Department program.

The Committee felt that we should combine the facilities management function for the Schools and the Town Hall operations and have one person in charge of overseeing all the buildings in Town. Mr. Fitzpatrick said the way to handle this is to hire someone who works for the Selectman who meets with all the departments and understands what their functions are and then look at everything. Take what they are suggesting and expand on it but they have to have a technical reason why they need the space. An architect in this field can come up with a schematic plan.

Ms. Weinstein said that they did form a global strategic facilities committee and the purpose of that is to take some of what this Committee was proposing and address our needs sooner rather than later. We had put \$40,000 into the budget for study money and the thought is start with the police department first. The one issue that has not been resolved is the communications center and whether we are going to regionalize or not. We need two tracks to go on, one if we need to have a communications center here and one if we don't.

Mr. Shupack said there was one more piece that they are waiting for and when they get that they will put the report all together. Mr. Shupack also strongly urged that any study of facilities should consider the Town's needs as a whole and not focus separately on the police department.

Discussion/decision regarding Old Mill Road-Rick Phillips; Chief Troxell; John Conte; Pat Sullivan- Rick Phillips said that several months ago they were contacted by residence of Old Mill Road alerting them to a hazardous situation. The road is a cut through for traffic in the morning and evenings, the speed limit is 15 mph and it is a very narrow, windy road with limited sight lines.

The first thing considered was enforcement and enforcement was stepped up. At a second meeting, the Town was asked how they could improve safety. He came up with two plans, one was to improve some sight lines, re-grade the road, straighten out some areas and get rid of some of the bumps, and another idea was to close the road, put a gate between the Weston and Wilton border, and create a cul-de-sac.

Chief Troxell said they have been successful with slowing down some of the vehicles but it is not the answer to the problems we have there. Mr. Conte and the Chief did identify some of the trees that could be cut down which would improve the width of the road. Mr. Muller asked if you improve the sight lines would you exacerbate your speed problem. The Chief said it would, but if the sight lines were improved then some of the residents could see coming out of their driveways.

Chief Troxell said if we were to build a cul-de-sac and dead end it, it would be a moot point to try and cut the trees down because you wouldn't have the amount of traffic volume. Ms. Weinstein said she has discussed the cul-de-sac with Town Attorney and there are some legal issues if we put a cul-de-sac. Town Attorney said the Board of Selectmen would have to vote to abandon the road to create the cul-de-sac and would need a special Town Meeting to confirm that vote. We will also need approval from the Town of Wilton. Anyone who is aggrieved by that decision could appeal it to the Superior Court and it doesn't have to be someone from Weston. Ms. Weinstein said she knew that cul-de-sacs could only be a certain length according to the regulations, and this is longer than that limit.

Chief Troxell said in August they will be putting a new traffic light at Norfield and Weston Road and in 18 months they will be putting a new traffic light in at School Road and Weston Road. They are also going to widen the intersection and make a right turn lane for people going north to go on to School Road. DOT did a study on Weston Road for improvements and they are talking about making it an all way stop at the intersection of Newtown turnpike and Georgetown Road and improving the sight line at the hill coming north bound. With those improvements he feels that the egress of traffic through Town Center is going to improve. The two traffic lights at School Road and Weston Road are going to be synchronized to keep the traffic flowing in front of Weston Center. Chief Troxell said if you are looking for a "solve all" for Old Mill Road he thinks a cul-de-sac is the way to do it.

John Conte said we could do a topographical survey for the entire length of the road and with the survey they could try to realign the vertical and horizontal alignments and take out the rollercoaster effective of the high and low points on the road which would

improve the safety of the road. He did obtain two prices for the survey and they were very close in price but very expensive. One price was \$8,800 and the other \$9,000.

Mr. Muller said he wondered if the first step shouldn't be the intermediate remediation of removing the trees and brush. Mr. Conte said that would be the other option that they were looking to remove all of the trees that are close to the road, and some of the rocks and boulders that are on the edge of the road. The Chief and Mr. Conte can mark the trees and get a price to have the trees removed and they also have to consider the power lines. The brush and rocks can be done in house by public works.

Mr. Muller said he wants to be sure that we are making the problem better and not making it easier for the people who are already breaking the law and speeding. Chief Troxell said with the improvements that are coming up by the State of Connecticut he feels that the traffic won't be backing up on Weston Road anymore it might be quicker to go on Rte. 57 to get to the parkway.

Ms. Weinstein asked what the Police Commission's recommendation is to the Board of Selectmen. Rick Phillips said it is to start by taking out the trees, the brush the rocks and see what happens. Beth Gralnick said that the Commission is concerned about the immediate future and wants to make road safer as quickly as possible.

Some residents on Old Mill Road voiced their opinion on the issue. One resident asked the Selectmen to consider speed bumps. Rick Phillips said they have done extensive research on them and there is evidence that show they are not effective as a speed control deterrent.

Mr. Tracey said ultimately we will have to find a way to prevent those speeders from doing that, but he is very persuaded by the recommendation of the Police Commission and the Chief by cutting down some of those trees in the short term as a very important first step and that does not prevent us from addressing the speed issue later. He said all the options have to stay on the table.

Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Conte to get and estimate for removing the trees. She will contact Wilton's First Selectmen and bring up the topic because we cannot make a decision on what we are doing on our end, because if they are not going to agree, it is a moot point. She will get together with the Chief and will report back at the next meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding Lords Highway and School Road intersection improvements- Chief Troxell and John Conte. Chief Troxell said he and the commission has discussed this at length in 2007 and then again in 2008. They tried putting cones and then a horse and also a temporary stop sign and they just got knocked over. He and John Conte looked at it and determined that there were sight line issues. To the right, there is some outcropping of land and some dead trees that are on Town property. To the left, at the stop sign, there is a large tree that is on the other side of the stonewall on private property. If that tree was removed it would improve the sight line.

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After they clean that up then they will revisit making that a three way stop. The most important part of the process is to clean up the sight line first and see how that works.

Ms. Weinstein said she would like to see an estimate to do the work and she would like to verify that the dead trees are on Town property. She and Mr. Conte would discuss initiating a conversation with the homeowner and get a sense on how they feel about removing the tree.

Discussion/decision regarding a request to obtain funds from the Vehicle Sinking Fund for the purchase of a police vehicle- Chief Troxell- Chief Troxell said that the vehicle itself was \$31,328 and the additional equipment is \$10,074.21. Ms. Weinstein asked if the three Crown Victoria's went to junk. The Chief said there is a radio that needs to be pulled out of one. Ms. Weinstein asked that they get that done this week.

Ms. Weinstein asked about their long term replacement plan for vehicles. Chief Troxell said he is not planning to ask for another vehicle. in the next budgetary cycle He is hoping that the Humvees are going to do a lot of the heavy lifting through a lot of the bad weather.

Mr. Muller moved to approve \$41,402.21 from the Vehicle Sinking Fund for the purchase of 2013 Tahoe for the Weston Police Department. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the Motion passed Mr. Muller, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Tracey absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Claudia Hahn to the Beautification Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2016. Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Claudia Hahn to the Beautification Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2016. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Muller, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Tracey absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Jordan Fenster to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Jordan updated the Selectmen on The Arts Commission activities. Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Jordan Fenster to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Muller, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Tracey absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Phoebe Cole-Smith to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Could not attend the meeting.

Discussion/interview regarding the Legal Review Committee- Maryanne Bolella- Maryanne has been a resident since 1998 and prior to that she lived in Wilton. From 1991 through 2008 she was employed by a major financial services firm. She negotiated, reviewed, drafted contracts, agreements, special terms and conditions with major consulting firms, mom and pop shops, vendors and fortune 500 companies. Ms. Weinstein asked if she had any experience working with attorneys, reviewing legal

contracts. She said yes, corporate law, outside attorneys in the discussion of interpretation of terms and conditions and discussion of the drafting of various contract terms, legal conditions as well as dispute resolution. She is not an attorney but she has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Angeles T. Rodriguez- She has been an attorney for over twenty-five years and is licensed in Massachusetts as well as Connecticut. She has worked in different areas including government and in the private sector. She wants to use her skills and experience in serving the Town and she thought this would be a nice opportunity to do something that was legally related. Mr. Muller said they have seen her organizational skills around Town.

Kevin Korsh- Mr. Korsh said that Mr. Tracey had spoken to him about applying to be on the committee. He went to law school in California, practiced in New York at Fried Frank and went back to California then came back to the New York area to work at GE in the commercial real estate business.

Interviews for the Select Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat property. Carol Baldwin- Carol Baldwin could not attend the meeting. The Board doesn't feel the need to interview Carol.

Accept the resignation of Terry Hulley from the Commission on Aging effective immediately. Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation of Terry Hulley from the Commission on Aging effective immediately. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding possible changes to the Town Code- Ms. Weinstein said we started the process to put the Town Code on line and she read it. There are four items that she wanted to bring to their attention and she thought that perhaps they should consider amending. We would need an ordinance change which would require a public hearing.

Section 2-1- Official sign posts. This section is outdated. Ms. Weinstein said with the board's permission she would like Town Attorney to come up with alternative language. The board agreed.

According to Chapter 11, Article 1, section 11-2 it is the Board of Selectmen or the designated agent that review Sales and Solicitations permits but in reality, it is the police department. She is proposing is that we change the authorized person who gives the permit to the Chief of Police or his designee.

Article 2 regarding Tag Sales- There are two issues here. Firstly, according to the Code, it is supposed to be the Board of Selectmen, not even the Selectmen's designee, that reviews these permits. Secondly, if someone wants to have a tag sale more than once a year, they have to come before the Board and prove practical difficulty or unusual hardship. She would like to get some updated language.

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The next two items regarding streets, sidewalks and public grounds and the driveway construction, for some reason the Board of Selectmen is the designee for the variances and she believes this should be changed to Planning and Zoning. She will go to their meeting and have that discussion with them and then we can start those changes.

Request for property tax refunds

Mercedes Benz Financial Services	\$674.56
Wejen Lee	<u>11.97</u>
Total	\$686.53

Mr. Muller moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$686.53 as listed on the June 7th Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- She forwarded a fire fighters grant to Chief Pokorny. Chief Pokorny asked if there was someone who could help them with the grant. She said both she and Rick Darling can help him with that.

They just put in a recertification for the Youth Services grant. We get about \$19,000 from the State for that.

Regionalization- Chief Troxell and Ms. Weinstein have been continuing conversations with the Town of Wilton. Any decision made has to be shown to reduce cost.

Windows and Doors project at the Weston Middle School- Tom Landry said the real construction activity won't begin until the week of the 25th after school is out. The sub-contractor Cherry Hill Glass has received the framing to make the windows. And all of that is on site at their factory. They have not received the tubing to get the doors done but they will have that done and installed this year. The doors will be warranted by Effco. They are in the process of figuring out who will warrantee the hardware. Secondino & Son project manager will be on site beginning Monday. Our Owners Representative will be on site a week later. The Building Committee will meet on the 20th and will get their first report from the Owner's Representative and from the others involved in the project. They have received the second request for payment which he hasn't paid yet.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- Margaret Wirtenberg gave the Selectmen a book about Connecticut Tree Laws.

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Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of May 17, 2012

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: At 9:50pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 6/21/12