

September 6, 2012

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

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 7:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Lynne Barrelle to fill the vacancy (Kathleen Failla) as Weston's Town Historian for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Lynne said she is known for her interest in local history which she started researching intensively about 18 years ago. She was born and raised in Weston and the house she lives has been owned by her family for over 60 years. She went through the Weston School system and is a part of Weston history. She has served on the Board of the Historical Society. Ms. Weinstein said that she hopes Lynne will take it upon herself to do some outreach to some of the newcomers to introduce them to all the wonderful aspects of Weston's History.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Lynne Barrelle to fill the vacancy as Weston's Town Historian for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of William Proceller to fill the vacancy (Don Gary) on the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014

Mr. Proceller said he has been a resident of Weston since 1997 and has kids in the Weston School System. He has been in Property Management all his life and has managed commercial office buildings in New York City. He is currently Senior Vice President for Cohen Brothers Realty managing about 7 million square feet of office space around the country.

Ms. Weinstein asked if he had the time to commit to the committee. He said yes, he can participate on weekends and at evening meetings. He attended the meeting a couple of weeks ago and instantly knew what they were talking about and understood the issues.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint William Proceller to fill the vacancy on the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Michael O'Brien; Eric Bell; Larry Cass and Robert Pickholtz to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

Michael O'Brien- Ms. Weinstein said that the Insurance Advisory Committee has been an outstanding committee that has saved the Town a lot of money. She thanked all the members who are currently serving and have served in the past as well. Mr. O'Brien said it has been challenging the last couple of years as the insurance costs have escalated. They make sure they are working to support the Town and the Schools both from a budget and risk standpoint.

Eric Bell- Mr. Bell said it was an interesting job and it touches all facets of the Town. It is one of the most expensive things in the budget. They keep the brokers honest and they think outside the box. They want to save money but want to make sure that the benefits are the best they can be for the employees.

Larry Cass- Mr. Cass said that he likes serving on the committee because we have a great organization and great leadership and they are doing a nice thing for the Town. Overall they are trying to find the right risk for the right price and be creative.

Robert Pickholtz- Mr. Pickholtz said he was appointed last year primarily because of his long experience in the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare industry. He has enjoyed serving on this committee, the leadership is outstanding and the people that he has served with are all experts in the insurance business. He thinks the committee has done an excellent job and he enjoys working with them.

Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Michael O'Brien, Eric Bell, Larry Cass and Robert Pickholtz to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Harry Spencer to fill the vacancy (P.J. Sacchetta) on the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Spencer said he has a background in finance. He has spent half his career in finance and half in HR benefits and compensation. He is currently with Jetblue as the V.P. of Compensation and Benefits. He is on the Board of the National Business Group on Health and is currently the president of Weston's Kiwanis's club.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Harry Spencer to fill the vacancy on the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding deer hunting- Mark Harper- Mr. Harper said in the State of Connecticut there is an over population of white tail deer and we are trying to do our part, as some of the other Towns are doing, by having controlled deer hunts. We have

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been successful at the landfill and Fromson/Strassler property and last year took six deer out of each piece of property. He would like to go back in both places again this year.

Mr. Tracey said some residents have expressed concerns about safety of people and animals in light of the controlled hunt and asked Mr. Harper if he could provide some level of comfort. Mr. Harper said we only allow bow hunters and the range on a bow hunter, the maximum eye, is 35 yards. He has told all of the hunters that they have to be in a tree stand so that they are elevated above the ground anywhere from 15 to 20 feet so they are shooting in a downward direction. The hunters that will be in there have been doing it for years. The places that they hunt is off the trail, there is nobody walking through the areas, it's all wooded areas. In the past five years they have not run into any residents in either the Transfer Station or the Fromson/Strassler property.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the Animal Control Officer to conduct a controlled deer hunt at the Weston Transfer Station and at the Fromson/Strassler property. Such hunt shall only be bow and arrow. No more than three hunters at a time will be allowed at the Weston Transfer Station and no more than four at a time on the Fromson/Strassler property. Adjacent property owners will be notified in writing at least 5 days in advance. The First Selectman will meet all hunters in person prior to signing any permits. The Animal Control Officer will report to the Board of Selectmen on the status and results of the hunt halfway through the hunting season. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding adopting a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Weston Police Department for the Town of Weston with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for participation in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.- Chief Troxell said Sergeant Brodacki and Officer Mogollon have spearheaded enforcement in this Task Force. Officer Mogollon said being part of this task force has allowed them to receive a lot of equipment for free for the Town. They have received approximately \$50,000 worth of equipment and the training that goes along with it. They received five new computers from the ICAC Task Force which is strictly for cell phone forensics. They have space set-up in the Annex where they have set up their own forensic lab and received cubicles that were donated from Perdue. Officer Mogollon explained to the Selectmen what ICAC was and some of the training that he received.

Mr. Muller asked if they were working on cases that have nothing to do with Weston who would pay for that. Chief Troxell said some of it is reimbursable and other parts are not reimbursable in a tangible way. He gave an example where Wilton Police Department helped with an accident reconstruction using equipment that they have and we don't.

Mr. Tracey asked if ICAC would ever come to Weston's Police Department and assign them an investigation that they didn't want to do. Ms. Weinstein said she believe that as part of the MOU they are obligated to do certain things and that is why we get so much

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equipment, cost reimbursements and training. She said that no one else in the State has the type of knowledge that they have in order to be able to solve the crimes.

Ms. Weinstein asked if we were going to have overtime expenses for training for this service. Chief Troxell said this fiscal year there would be zero because we have a full complement of officers. They also do have some money set aside in the budget for training and investigation issues which is monitored very closely.

Mr. Tracey moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Weston Police Department for the Town of Weston with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for participation in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Old Mill Road- John Conte and Chief Troxell

Mr. Conte said one of the things they can do to help improve the safety on Old Mill Road is remove some of the trees that are right along the edge of the pavement areas. He and Chief Troxell took some contractors out to look at the trees that they want taken down and they received three proposals. The best proposal was from Knapp Tree Inc. and they would like to proceed with them. If they get approval they will need to close the road during peak hours from 9:00am to 3:00pm for about five days. They will need two officers, one on either end of the road. The officers will cost an additional \$4,800.

If this is approved the trees have to be posted and if anyone wishes to appeal it there is a time period in which to do that.

Sgt. Daubert said they set a unit up to collect data so that they could do a survey from the time period of August 27th through September 5th and from 6:00am to 10:00pm. It is a 15 mph posted speed limit and approximately 22% travel under 25 mph. Sgt. Daubert said that 25mph is the most you would want to travel on that road. 71% of the all the vehicles travel between 26 and 35 mph and that is consistent with what the officers have observed when they were doing traffic enforcement.

Ms. Weinstein asked if we remove the trees on the edge of the road would it encourage more speeding which some of the residents have concerns about. Sgt. Daubert said that he thinks that there could be an increase in speed at some point but the safety issues with removing the trees would be helpful. If we keep up enforcement we could make some progress.

Mr. Tracey said taking down the trees will not stop the speeding. He asked what we were going to do to stop the speeding. Mr. Conte said there are two things that need to be done for safety. One is removing some big boulders and also stripping the pavement in certain areas to slow down the traffic. Chief Troxell said that Norfield Road and Weston Road traffic light is being upgraded. In about 18 months the School Road traffic light will be synchronized with the Norfield Road and Weston Road light. With the improvements

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being done the volume of traffic will move better and Old Mill Road will see less traffic cutting through.

Mr. Muller said he would like for us to revisit this after the trees are down and if we see the mph shifting up then we need to revisit it. Mr. Tracey said that he agrees that we need to redo the study after the trees are down but he disagrees that this is acceptable at this level. If we see it the same we are still failing because we have more than 70% of the people traveling at a dangerous speed limit. Chief Troxell said with commuter traffic and the way the road is now it isn't safe for the officers to stop people for speeding, with the trees down, it will make it safer for the officers to stop people for speeding.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of 17,850 for the removal of trees on Old Mill Road by Knapp Tree Inc. and \$4,800 to cover the cost of police presence while the work is being done subject to Board of Finance approval. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alexandra Farsun said that this one measure is solving one step of a two-step problem. Volume is a big problem and she is hoping that once we get the trees out of the roadway that they can fine some money in the budget to consider something like speed bumps or other measures. Mr. Conte said that there are federal guidelines for speed bumps and the criteria of the road doesn't meet the safety standards.

Discussion/decision regarding a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$11,041.35 to purchase Tasers for the Police Department.- Chief Troxell, Officer Miceli and Commissioner Gralnick. There are three officers currently outfitted with Tasers. The police commission approved a policy on Tasers in April of 2011. The presence of the Tasers on certain calls have deescalated certain situations that could have become violent and physical.

There have been numerous studies throughout the country with some of the larger departments that have implemented Tasers and utilize them on daily patrol. They found that injuries to suspects have dropped dramatically, 60% to 80% , and on the police side, the workers compensation cost may have dropped dramatically in municipalities.

Officer Miceli showed a video of an incident that happened recently where Weston was dispatched to a call, Redding was called in as back up and had to use their Taser to subdue the perpetrator. Officer Miceli said if the Redding officer did not have the Taser this could have been a much more violent and potentially deadly outcome. They have seen where Tasers save life and reduce injury. Chief Troxell said that this is a good example of a public safety issue.

Chief Troxell said that the Tasers are a requirement through the Police Academy now. Initially they were looking for private donations but did not get the donations that they were hoping to get. Based on this situation and what he has seen as a growing problem in the recent history of the Town he thinks it is important that the officers are all equipped

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with the proper Tasers on their belt. They are looking to purchase 11 new yellow Tasers. Beth Gralnick said on Tuesday night the police commission voted unanimously to come before the Selectmen to request the supplemental appropriation because they too agree it is a public safety issue. Chief Troxell said he totally trusts the technology and showed a video of himself being Tasered.

Mr. Muller asked why they were doing this as a supplemental and not as part of the normal budgeting process. Beth Gralnick said that they did not put it in the current budget because they knew the constraints in terms of budgeting for this Fiscal Year and they were still researching it at that point. The reason they are bringing it up now is because this incident triggered it. The commission felt it was a safety issue and did not want to put it off.

Mr. Tracey said that we know that incidents occur, and he would have thought that issue would have come up in the regular budget cycle. He asked since we have three Tasers and all the officers are trained, why they can't pick up a Taser when they start their shift. Chief Troxell said every piece of equipment that the officer has on his belt is issued to that officer and he has to make sure it is in working order. Every time an officer trains, he trains with the same piece of equipment. Handing off Tasers is not the proper way to be outfitting the officers.

After some more discussion Ms. Weinstein said she would be happy to consider this and advocate for it as a Capital request but this she doesn't think this rises to the level of a supplemental appropriation. Supplemental appropriations are for immediate needs that come up. The Taser policy has been in effect since April of 2011 and they have gone through a budget cycle where they could have asked for it. Mr. Tracey agreed and feels the public should have input and it should go into the normal budget process.

There were a couple of people in attendance at the meeting who said they did not know the police were seeking donations for the Tasers and they would be happy to donate. Eric Bell from the Insurance Advisory Committee would check on the impact to Workers Compensation Insurance.

Mr. Muller said he would advocate for donations and we can visit this in a month and see where we are. Mr. Tracey agreed.

Discussion/decision regarding the acceptance of a gift of \$1000 from Lynne and Jack Dodick toward the purchase of Tasers for the Police Department- Chief Troxell and Commissioner Gralnick- Mr. Tracey move to accept a gift of \$1,000 from Lynne and Jack Dodick toward the purchase of a Taser for the Police Department. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the question(s) for the November Ballot on the Charter Revision. Mr. Tracey recused himself. Mr. Muller said we had a group of individuals who dedicated a lot of time to creating a coherent and cohesive document that

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had internal integrity that is at point in one section may be referenced in three other sections in the document. Any time you start giving a menu of options to choose from we are opening up ourselves to the possibility that you may have 5/6 approved and the 1/6 that is not approved has implications for the internal integrity of the other items. For that reason he would advocate strongly that we put the question on Election Day as an up or down vote on the document as prepared by the committee as reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and as finalized by the committee on drafting the Charter.

Ms. Weinstein said she agreed and disagreed. Her concern goes back to the fact that we are proposing two substantial changes. One is the fact that we are changing the Tax Collector to an appointed position and the second is that we are adding a referendum vote on a permanent basis. She agrees with Mr. Muller, the document is one organic whole and it is very difficult to break it out. She's 100% behind the changes that were made to the Charter which is one complete document and one complete guide to how we run our government. She agrees that we should have one vote on the entire document.

Ms. Weinstein asked that we prepare something ahead of the election so that people understand what the substantive changes are. Mr. Muller moved that we add to the November Referendum a vote to approve the Town Charter as Amended and Restated. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the vote was Mr. Muller, Ms. Weinstein yes. Mr. Tracey recused since he was co-chairman on the Charter Revision Commission.

Discussion/decision regarding changing the date of the September 20th Board of Selectmen's meeting to September 24th 2012. Mr. Muller moved to change the date of the September 20th meeting to September 24th 2012. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- Tom Landry said that we are going to get \$20,000 grant for replacing the furnaces in the Town Hall which was approximately \$180,000 project. We did not anticipate the grant when we did that work.

We received a grant check for a project that we did a year ago. We upgraded several air conditioning units to more energy efficient units. We had to pre fund the improvements and the grant would pay for it and it paid almost 100%. The improvements will save us money in the operating budget.

Rick Darling received a check for \$65,000 which is the Town's portion for the additional real estate conveyance tax. For the next Fiscal Year Mr. Darling is anticipating \$70,000.

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Regionalization- Ms. Weinstein said they have a meeting scheduled in September with Bill Brennan, First Selectman in Wilton as well as the police and fire in each Town.

Windows and Doors project at Weston Middle School- Tom Landry said they have a night crew that comes in about 2:30pm and work until 11:00pm. They will probably be at the point next week to do a final punch list. We have paid about 75% of the cost so far.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of August 16, 2012

Mr. Muller moved to approve the minutes of the August 16th 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:55pm Mr. Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant