

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

**September 11, 2009**

Present: First Selectman Woody Bliss; Selectwoman Gayle Weinstein; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito and Margaret Wirtenberg.

Selectman Glenn Major joined the meeting by phone

**This meeting was recorded and video taped and the tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.**

Mr. Bliss called the meeting to order at 11:11 am.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation for a CL&P feasibility study to provide a design and an estimate of the total cost to combine the Weston High School and Weston Middle School electrical circuits into a single meter.**

Mr. Landry said the Board of Finance voted the supplemental funding at their meeting last night with the same caveats and concerns that the Board of Selectmen had. Mr. Bliss said that they are in the process of getting CL&P to agree to do this as an accounting type transaction. It is a little more complex than it appeared on the surface. They will be meeting probably next Wednesday to enable them to understand why they have to do the study and why we have to run any wires at all to connect the two systems on a single meter.

Mr. Bliss said that he called Chris Swan from CL&P and also his contact from the DPUC, who is the commissioner responsible for electrical energy. This has come up in other places and he agrees with Mr. Bliss's position, that this should be done as an accounting measure, but he wanted the Town to exhaust all the avenues at CL&P before we go to the DPUC with our request.

In order to do the grant, we have to sign documents that say we have the money in place and do the things that the Town is responsible for. UTC has indicated to the Town that they will pick up, as part of the package, any expenses that need to be done for the electrical part of this. The rough estimate on that is \$100,000. Mr. Bliss said that we have already spent \$10,000 and our obligation ends at \$19,052.

The CCEF just reduced their grant reimbursement from \$3,500 a kilowatt down to \$2,500 a kilowatt. The reason they did that is because they have gotten a lot more applications in the last 30 days. They want to be able to spread the funds a little further. Mr. Bliss said assuming we get the grant, the savings to the Town is approximately 1.2 million and in the most optimistic case about 3.2 million over 10 years.

Mr. Bliss said that he proposes that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town, and this is what the Board of Finance did last night, to spend up to \$9,052 for the study. Mr. Bliss said he will continue to be very aggressive with CL&P with regard to, do we have to spend any of this money at all. UTC is also supporting us, because they do not want to spend another \$100,000.

Ms. Weinstein asked about the lease payments. We would have the lease payments, but we would offset them with savings. Ms. Weinstein asked what would happen if the grant did not come through. Mr. Bliss said if the grant did not come through, we should rethink what we are doing. We would know that before we were obligated to go further. Mr. Bliss said our maximum exposure is the \$10,000 we have already spent plus this \$9,052.

The term of the lease is 15 years. They went with this because the core of the unit needs to be replaced in 10 years. They will replace the unit once. If the unit is still operational after the 15 years, we will be able to buy it for a small amount of money.

Mr. Major said his concern is that he has no issue with spending the funds if we have to, but by voting to spend the funds we may send a message to CL&P that they do not need to negotiate with us because the funds have already been expended. Mr. Bliss said Weston is not the only organization that is trying to combine facilities to utilize the full capacity of the 400kw generator. He said there are others that want this issue resolved and he was quite hopeful that we can get this thing done as an accounting matter.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation of up to \$9,052 for a CL&P feasibility study to provide a design and estimate of the total cost to combine the Weston High School and Weston Middle School electrical circuits into a single meter. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein wanted them to button up the lease as soon as possible. She is concerned about the grant money going from the \$3,500 to \$2,500 a kilowatt.

Adjournment- At 11:26am Ms. Weinstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 09/30/09