

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman David Muller, Selectman Dennis Tracey, Animal Control Officer Mark Harper, Police Chief John Troxell, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at: 7:55pm

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Weinstein asked that the Town Attorney, Pat Sullivan, join the meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding proposed Dog Ordinance – Mark Harper

Mr. Harper explained that we have rules for dog control, but we need laws. He has identified some areas in town that are a problem and have become a public safety issue. Mr. Harper feels that with over 1500 dogs in town, we need more control in town. There are State laws in place, but the money from those fines does not go to the town. If we had town ordinances, then the money from fines would stay in the town and help off-set the operation costs of the Animal Control Department. Rules are not enforced, but laws are. Ms. Weinstein stated that tonight will be the first discussion regarding the recommended changes, but a formal public hearing will be necessary to put the ordinance in place.

Ms. Weinstein sent an email to Dr. Palmer and Phil Shaeffer because some of the properties that would be included in the ordinance are on school property. She needs to see if they want to review the proposed changes with their Policy Committee and their Facilities Committee. To review Mark Harpers recommendations: (see document attached). Ms. Weinstein noted that the rules regarding Lachat Farm may need to be amended. The proposed ordinance is very similar to the one in Wilton and other surrounding communities and it has been very effective. Mr. Muller states that the one thing missing is mandated signage...and when you talk about properties and complexes it may not be very clear. Ms. Weinstein reminds Mr. Muller that this is a work in progress and we can change language as needed. Mr. Tracey states he is very much in favor of the recommendations.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Paul Deysenroth to the Historic District Commission for a term to end December 31, 2019. Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Paul Deysenroth to the Historic District Commission for a term to end December 31, 2019. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Ray Rauth to the Weston Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee for a term to end December 31, 2016. Mr. Rauth presented what is new with his committee. He recently interviewed Carolyn Hines who is interested in joining the committee. Ms. Weinstein asks if the timing of their meetings creates an issue. Ms. Weinstein

says that the one thing she would like to be discussed is the Norwalk River Valley Trail and how Weston can get involved, either by creating something similar in town, or hooking up somehow to the existing trails. Discussion included possibly transforming the fitness trail at Bisceglie Park if we cannot connect to the Norwalk River system. If we widen those trails and put down the crushed pebble surface it might be nicer/safer for the seniors to walk on. Ms. Weinstein would like to explore these possibilities as there may be grant money available for this type of project, meaning very little town money would need to be spent.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Ray Rauth to the Weston Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee for a term to end December 31, 2016. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Barbara Babcock to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to end December 31, 2019.

Ms. Weinstein requests that we first move to item 11 on the agenda so the resignation of Denise Murillo from the Board of Assessment Appeals can be accepted. Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation of Denise Murillo from the Board of Assessment Appeals effective immediately. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Babcock tells the Board about herself and why she wants to join the committee. She's been in Weston since 1999, raised 4 children through our school system, and has worked in Real Estate since 2002. She also has a background in appraisals. She feels sitting on this Board would be a very good fit. Ms. Babcock has spoken with Hillary Koyner (a current board member) to learn more about what the Board does, as well as attended a meeting.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Barbara Babcock to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to end December 31, 2019. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Robert Soloff to the Building Board of Appeals for a term to end December 31, 2019. Ms. Weinstein states the Mr. Soloff currently serves on the Building Committee. Mr. Weinstein reminds us that not many people know what the Building Board of Appeals Committee does, so asked that they schedule a meeting, which will take place on February 17th. This committee gives residents an opportunity to address any issues they may have with the town. Mr. Muller moved to appoint Robert Soloff to the Building Board of Appeals for a term to end December 31, 2019. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Andrew Cumming to the Veteran's Affairs Committee for a term to end December 31, 2016

Mr. Cumming is not present for this appointment, so this item will be moved to the next BOS meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding a request to withdraw up to \$37,000 from the Special Detail Vehicle account for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the Police Chief. - John Troxell, Police Chief.

Chief Troxell explains the need for a new vehicle. His current vehicle has approximately 115,000 miles on it. He would like this car to be used by the officers around town (it can also be used to tow). It is a 2008. His plan was to keep the car for 5 years. He is requesting a new

Chief's car, a police utility vehicle. The old car is ready to be used as is. The money for the new car will be requested from the Special Detail Vehicle Account. This is a fund where we get money for the special road jobs that the police officers do. The money in this account is used partially to offset the budget for equipment and repairs and part is kept as a sinking fund for police vehicles such as this. Ms. Gralnick stated that the PD was operating with a very aging fleet, and they have just recently starting replacing vehicles. She also stated that they will only be purchasing 4WD vehicles going forward. The current balance in this fund is \$62,552.12. The next step is to get approval from the BOF for this purchase. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the request to withdraw up to \$37,000 from the Special Detail Vehicle account for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the Police Chief. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tom Landry joins the meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding award of a bid to remove and replace the Godfrey Road West Bridge to Nagy Brothers Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$584,200, and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract for that purpose .- Tom Landry, Town Administrator.

Mr. Landry reminds us the bids were open last summer with Nagy being the lowest bidder at the time. We didn't enter into a contract with them at that time as they were having difficulty getting parts needed to build the bridge. This has been resolved, plans redone. This should be a quicker project then planned, approximately 10-12 weeks. Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with Nagy Brothers Construction Company, Inc. for the amount of \$584,200 for the removal and replacement of the Godfrey Road West Bridge. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to enter into a contract with Cardinal Engineering for administration and project inspection services related to the Godfrey Road Bridge project in the amount of \$70,000. - Tom Landry, Town Administrator.

Mr. Landry stated that this is a state bridge which involves paperwork and inspections. This company will supply all administrative and inspection services for this bridge project. Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with Cardinal Engineering for administration and project inspection services related to the Godfrey Road Bridge project in the amount of \$70,000. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Selectman's Update:

First Selectman's Update: Ms. Weinstein reports another Grant received by our police department for the forensic lab that is run by Sgt. Matt Brodacki. The grant received is for \$14,000 for lab equipment.

David Muller gives an update of the Lights Oversight Committee and the testing of the light and sound system

There are 5 members of this committee: David Muller, Elise Major (Board of Ed), Jeff Ferdinand (Parks & Rec), Brian Porter and Richard Silverstein (neighbors to stadium) This committee has had one meeting so far (Nov 5th) and one site visit (Nov 19th). They climbed through the trees and performed a meter reading to measure the light spillage onto nearby properties. The greatest amount of light spillage was between 0.01 and 0.06 light units. The moonlight is responsible for 0.01. Regarding the sound from the stadium, the only thing that can be heard is background music, no other voices were heard. The sound system is set up so that it is locked at a certain volume and cannot go any louder...it can however be turned lower. Screening to block out the light reflection was offered to the neighboring properties, the only resident who showed interest in this was Richard Silverstein. Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Muller to follow up on that.

Property Tax Refunds:

Paul Singleton	\$7,261.92
Mercedes Benz	\$2,155.66
Nissan Infinity	\$632.12
Gregg Haythorne	\$540.71
Toyota Financial	\$281.50
Honda Lease Trust	\$233.32
Automotive Rentals	\$62.27
Rodney Jones	\$11.61

Total: \$11,179.11

Mr. Muller moved to approve the Property Tax Refunds as stated on the February 5, 2015 BOS Agenda for the total amount of \$11,179.11. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes of the December 4, 2014 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting and the December 22, 2014 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the minutes of the December 4 2014 BOS Meeting, Mr. Tracey seconded. Ms. Weinstein abstains. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 BOS Meeting, Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45

Respectfully submitted by:
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved 3/5/15