

Board of Selectmen's
June 21, 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 7:30pm

Ms. Weinstein held a moment of silence for former First Selectman Sue Hutchinson who passed away. She served as the First Selectman from 1979 to 1983.

Discussion/decision regarding the Charter Revision- Mr. Tracey recused himself. Mr. Muller said the committee worked through their agreements and disagreements and came up with a document that is essentially cohesive.

He supports all of the statements and recommendations made in the document. The one thing he believes that we should change is to look at how the questions are posed after the ATBM, and he believes that it is appropriate to break out the Capital Budget as a separate line item. That will put three specific items on the referendum which would be Town Operating Budget, Board of Education Budget and the Capital Budget.

The final question he wants to address is what do you do with the ATBM and what do you do with the referendum. He has changed his opinion over the last couple of years. He is a strong believer in the role that the ATBM plays and is glad that we are retaining that as a key decision making body. He thinks that the referendum is a good idea, but his one question is the issue of a quorum. The support for, and the decision to proceed with, the referendum has built in a structural disincentive for people to appear at the ATBM. He did an informal survey of 30 people that he knows and he asked if they felt it was important to come to the ATBM. 28 out of the 30 said they don't feel a need to show up twice. This shows a faulty recognition of the importance of the ATBM where decisions about what goes to the voters are made. He is comfortable with a 2% threshold requirement for the quorum recognizing as was shown to them last week that it is possible to jimmy the numbers a little bit and come up with an alternative outcome.

To summarize, he supports all of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Commission with the exception of the way that the voting would work with what items would go to the referendum vote following the ATBM where he would raise it from two items to three items.

Ms. Weinstein said she agreed with what Mr. Muller said. The one issue she has is the way the Capital Budget is linked to the Town Operating Budget. She still wishes that the Capital Budget was voted on at the ATBM because each individual item is really unique onto itself and it is very difficult to take a slice off it. Her concern is if that budget goes down then you will need to start with smallest project and work your way up. Unless people expressed concern about a particular item at the ATBM, there is no way of

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knowing which item the Town disagrees with. She did express her concern to the Charter Revision Commission, and in the end they felt that in order to give the majority of the Town the option to vote on it, that it should go to a referendum vote. Hearing that and understanding their concerns, she agrees with Mr. Muller and ask that it be decoupled from the Town Operating budget because it's not fair to penalize the Town Operating budget if people have concerns about a capital item which may be on the school side.

Ms. Weinstein moved to ask the Charter Revision Commission to reconsider the linking of the Town Operating Budget to the Capital Operating Budget and report back to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Muller seconded. The vote was Ms. Weinstein, Mr. Muller yes, Mr. Tracey abstained.

Interview for the Select Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat property- Paul Deysenroth- Mr. Deysenroth could not attend the meeting. Ms. Weinstein said that since Mr. Deysenroth has been before us several times and he served formally on the Lachat Building Committee we don't have to interview him. She asks the Board to consider him as a candidate for the committee. They agreed.

Discussion/decision regarding members for the Select Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat property- We received a couple more applications for the committee so in the interest of fairness she asked that they not vote on this item tonight. We will interview the candidates at our next meeting and then we will make the final decision.

Interview for the Legal Review Committee- Howard Aibel- Mr. Aibel said he has been a resident of the area since 1962 and moved from Westport to Weston in 1987. He was previously on the Conservation Commission but resigned because he was having trouble walking the sites. Ms. Weinstein said that Mr. Aibel rewrote the regulations for Conservation Commission. He has been a member of the New York bar since 1952. He started in litigation and got a lot of experience about how the firms work. He had a philosophy when he ran the legal function at ITT that the basic job of an in house attorney was to provide advice to avoid litigation.

Discussion/decision regarding members for the Legal Review Committee- Mr. Tracey moved to appoint to the Select Committee for Legal Review Jeff Eglash, Angeles Rodriguez, Kevin Korsh, Maryanne Bolella and Howard Aibel for a term to expire January 31, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation for \$100,000 for OPEB, \$300,000 for Bridge Repair and \$250,000 for High School Doors and repairs from FY2011-2012. Ms. Weinstein said the general fund has a balance of 13.9% of the budget which is more than we like to carry. We have only appropriated \$174,000 of a total of 1.2 million that we can appropriate therefore would like to prefund some of the Capital items that we know we will have for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Muller said that he feels this is a wise decision and carrying too much is over taxing the public. Mr. Tracey asked if we make a supplemental appropriation of \$650,000 where

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would that put the percentage of the general fund balance. Mr. Landry said it would bring it to 12.9%. The rating agencies are generally looking for between 8-12%.

Ms. Weinstein said the Board of Finance felt comfortable choosing three items for a supplemental appropriation. Mr. Muller moved to approve a supplemental appropriation for FY2011-2012 from the general fund for the following items; \$100,000 for the OPEB Trust Fund, \$300,000 to the Bridge Repair Account; \$250,000 for the High School Doors and Windows replacement project. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Old Mill Road- Ms. Weinstein spoke to First Selectman Brennan from Wilton who has been having conversation with his Police Chief. Wilton will not agree to a cul-de-sac for similar reasons that we have already discussed. The length of the road is too long to get emergency vehicles down. They would have to take private property in order to create a turnaround and they feel that it is not going to solve the issues that we are having. Chief Troxell will be working closely with Chief Lombardo and will try to do some traffic studies and see what can be done to improve traffic flow and road improvements. John Conte is in the process of getting estimates to remove the trees. She asked Mr. Conte and Chief Troxell to take another look so that we can be careful about selecting the trees that they are removing so that they are improving site lines but not creating speedways. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding awarding the Reval contract for 2013- Ken Whitman Mr. Whitman said we have a mandated revaluation coming up in 2013. We went out to bid this spring and bids were required to be back by April 30. The bid opening took place on April 30th. This reval does not require onsite inspections. Typically a revaluation of this type for the Town of Weston would probably be in \$80,000-\$100,000 range but he has taken on functions that are typically given to a reval company so we have been able to cut back on the actual functions of the revaluation company and we have gotten some competitive bids. Municipal Valuation Services, LLC- \$48,000, Tyler Technologies, Inc. \$49,300 and Vision Government Solutions Inc.- \$44,500. The assessor's office is currently using the Vision Appraisal software and they are the company that performed the last revaluation, we are comfortable with them and they are also the low bidder.

Mr. Tracey moved to award the Reval contract to Vision Government Solutions, Inc., Northboro, Mass. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a request from Social Services for \$3,000 to purchase food gift cards. Charlene Hillman- Ms. Weinstein said that food pantries are a wonderful service, but state law does not allow them to provide fresh food. The gift cards allow people in need to buy meat, produce and fresh vegetables. Charlene Hillman couldn't be here tonight so Ms. Weinstein is making the request for her.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the amount of \$3,000 from the Community Grant Line Item account for FY2011-2012 for the purchase of gift cards. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Jared Kapel to fill a vacancy (Phoebe Cole-Smith) on Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein said this is a first for the Town of Weston because we have a student that, if appointed, is going to fill a full voting slot on a committee. Mr. Kapel said he is a senior at Weston High School. He is very interested in exploring the field of sustainability. He conducted an independent study this year for which he received honors. It was about the average carbon footprint in Weston homes, which was over 135,000 tons of carbon. He wants to do everything he can to help reduce that and help make Weston more sustainable.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Jared Kapel to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At this point Mr. Muller had to leave the meeting

Discussion/decision regarding the reappoint of Ellen McCormick to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein said that Ms. McCormick was just here to interview for the Lachat Committee so she did not feel the need to bring her back in.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Ellen McCormick to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the vote was Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Andi Luciano Fine and Keith Brooks to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Andi Luciano Fine was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Brooks said he is interested in doing something to contribute to the community and the most suitable thing for him to participate in is the Arts Commission because he is interest in music and painting particularly. He is also interested in the concept that the Arts Commission may find a place in the Lachat program. He thinks it would be a very good thing if we had in Weston a low cost place where people could go and study painting, music and particularly workshops. It would be helpful in enhancing the image of Weston as a place of culture.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Keith Brooks to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Sandra Dadik as Weston's Representative to C-MED for a term to expire June 30, 2013- Ms. Weinstein said C-Med did ask that we reappoint Ms. Dadik. She appeared before the Board about six months ago.

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Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Sandra Dadik as Weston's representative to C-Med for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, M. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Jennifer Markov to fill the vacancy (David Wilk) on Weston's Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Markov said sustainability is something that she is very passionate about. She has an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources and an MBA in sustainable business. She volunteers in different capacities for the Nature Conservancy, the Aspetuck Land Trust, the New York Botanical Garden and when they moved to Weston she wanted to participate in some sort of sustainability organization. She has been attending meetings as a non-voting member and she would like to be a member of this group.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Jennifer Markov to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

Schedule a Town Meeting to transfer property from the Town to residents on Oak Lane- There are three residents on oak lane, Ganz, Camhi and Chadwick that some years ago Planning and Zoning and the Board of Selectmen had said that they would transfer Town property to them and that legally never happened. We have started the process to make that legal. Ms. Weinstein went through Planning and Zoning and they issued a favorable 8-24 report. We need to schedule a Town Meeting because the town needs to vote on it since we are transferring town property to individual home owners.

Mr. Tracey moved to schedule a Special Town Meeting on August 2, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to transfer property from the Town of Weston to 12, 15 and 16 Oak Lane. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes and Mr. Muller absent.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- John Conte and Tom Landry have made application for a grant that we might be able to get funding for two bridges.

She forwarded an application to the fire department where they may apply for equipment. We have never received this grant.

There is a grant for Main Street Economic Development for towns with fewer than 30,000 in population and she feels it is the perfect opportunity for us to apply for sidewalks which is a qualifying project. We can do sidewalks in front of Town Center and maybe up to School Road.

Regionalization- Chief Troxell has been continuing talks with the Town of Wilton regarding merging our communication centers. One of items that the State charged the Office of Policy and Management to do is to review the Regional Planning Organizations that are in the State. The deadline passed and they decided to make no recommendation so state legislature did not like that and revised the date to January 1, 2014 and asked that they take another look at merging the Regional Planning Organizations to form larger organizations.

Windows and Doors project at Weston Middle School- Mr. Landry said there are two trailers in the parking lot next to Revson field that are filled with windows. The first construction meeting was held yesterday afternoon and there were approximately 20 people there, including him. The environmental folks will be in the school this weekend taking the required background readings and on Monday they begin construction. By mid to late week, they will be working two shifts. The owner's rep. Bill Knight is on site and gave a report to the Building Committee.

Revson Field- The irrigation system has been recompleted. National Irrigation tested the entire system and it is working perfectly. The infield re-renovation is complete as well and looks beautiful. Frank Palosso will work with Rocky who is the field manager for the school district and then the varsity field should be done.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of June 7, 2012-
Mr. Tracey moved to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of June 7, 2012. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

At 8:33pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Tracey, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller absent.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 8/02/12