

July 7, 2011

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

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Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dan Gilbert; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito;

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

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

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Jack Davidoff and Richard Wolf to the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2013

Richard Wolf- He has been a member of the Building Committee for 20 years and is currently Vice Chairman. He chaired the School Building Committee during the school building project. It is a committee that addresses many technical issues and he feels he has the qualifications in those areas. He has an excellent attendance record and is interested in serving the Town for the next two years.

Ms. Weinstein said she had serious reservations about reappointing him to the Building Committee. She was very concerned that Mr. Wolf felt that \$30,000 for P \$ Z approvals for the cemetery was an insignificant sum of money and that the Board of Selectmen should just go ahead and approve that. When you're sitting on the Building Committee you have a responsibility to be fiscally conservative and watch the Town's dollars.

The more Ms. Weinstein looked into the issues that they are having in trying to fix Revson field, the more obvious it became that the problems stemmed from decisions made by the School Building Committee which Mr. Wolf chaired.

Ms. Weinstein said her last concern was the letter that Mr. Wolf wrote to the editor of the Weston Forum in which he wrote "we will have an opportunity this fall to elect a new Board of Selectmen. Perhaps our new board will have the leadership and vision to give the question a fair hearing". Regardless of what happens with the next election, Ms. Weinstein will be the First Selectman until then and needs to make sure that everyone that we appoint is someone who can willingly work with her in a cooperative manner.

Mr. Wolf said that Revson Field was a divided responsibility issue; as such, they did not have the ability to pin the responsibility for the defective drainage conditions on one party. Ms. Weinstein said that there was a decision made by the Building Committee to remove drainage from the project and to not properly pitch the field.

Ms. Weinstein asked if Mr. Wolf felt he could work effectively with her as First Selectman. Mr. Wolf said that he felt he has always worked effectively with First

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Selectmen over the past 20 years regardless of party affiliation. Mr. Gilbert said a healthy difference of opinion is a part of what good government is. We are not a team. The goal is not to get along, we should treat each other with respect, but the goal is to make the right decision. Ms. Weinstein said that there is a difference about disagreeing and being disrespectful.

Mr. Muller said that in the wake of the referendum held to determine whether the Town should proceed with application to Planning and Zoning, Mr. Wolf opted to take a public stance on what he saw was the incorrectness of this Boards decision to precede with the referendum as worded. He wrote a letter questioning Mr. Muller's judgment and called for his ouster at the next election. On April 19th Mr. Wolf took a private email exchange between him and Mr. Muller and forwarded it to a wider audience without his consent. If there is not an element of trust in a Town government comprised largely of volunteers, Mr. Muller has concerns about the way the arms of this government can continue to work together effectively.

Mr. Muller said that he did support Mr. Wolf's nomination to the Building Committee because of his technical knowledge and his past commitment and in recognition of the work that he put in as chairman of the Cemetery Committee. He said that he does so however, with a clear statement that he was not pleased with how Mr. Wolf ended his term as chairman.

Mr. Wolf said that they were passionate on the Cemetery Committee on what they thought was the right approach. They felt that the wrong question was asked.

Mr. Gary said that he would like to speak in support of Mr. Wolf's re-nomination to the Building Committee. Mr. Gary said he came on the Building Committee in 2001 and from that time until 2006 they met every Wednesday night. They had an 80 million dollar project that came in on time and on budget which has not happened in Fairfield County since the late 70's and Mr. Wolf was a big part of that.

Mr. Gary said he takes issue with a couple of things. He has never known Mr. Wolf to be flippant about \$30 let alone \$30,000. With regard to Revson field there is enough blame around to go in many different areas. Revson field is pitched the correct way the problem is that there are depressions and dishes in there. Revson field was a mess before they started and it was a mess after they finished. There are now five members on the building committee and each have different disciplines. Mr. Wolf has a lot and Mr. Gary asks that the Board reappoint him.

Jack Davidoff- Mr. Davidoff spoke in favor of reappointing Richard Wolf.

Mr. Davidoff said that he felt it was good to have his finger on the pulse in the community. He likes to see what projects are going on and if he can give some of his support both physically, emotionally and intellectually he can add to the projects that are going on in Town. It is a serious commitment and they now meet twice a month because there are a lot of projects going on.

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Mr. Gary said that he would also like to support the reappointment of Jack Davidoff. Jack brings a discipline in the area of clean energy and trying to get sustainable energy and also dealing with some of the aging infrastructure in some of the Town buildings.

Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint Jack Davidoff and Richard Wolf to the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. Ms. Weinstein said that if she found Mr. Wolf's attitude or behavior egregious during his term she will come back to the Board of Selectmen and ask for his removal. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Gary Betsworth, Peter Catucci and Margaret Brooks to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Gary Betsworth said in this time of fiscal crisis, we should not lose sight of the value of arts in our culture. They have been good stewards of the town money and are trying to provide the best programs they can with the money they have.

Peter Catucci said that he has served on the Commission for four years and they have a good nucleus now. They enjoy each other and are coming up with interesting ideas. The concert they just had was one of the largest events they have held in a long time.

Margaret Brooks said that has enjoyed being on the Commission. She has acted as the treasurer and has stayed within budget. They have been short on membership but they are trying to attract more members to give them more manpower to put on more events.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Gary Betsworth, Margaret Brooks and Peter Catucci to the Commission for the Arts for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Rabbi Levi Stone as Weston's Police Chaplin for a term to expire June 30, 2013

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Rabbi Levi Stone as Weston's Police Chaplin for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Larry Roberts as the Deputy Fire Marshal. Larry Roberts said that he has been a Fire Marshal in Greenwich for 2 ½ years but is no longer in that position. He does have the certification and is current in the certification. He has been standing in for the current Fire Marshal, John Pokorny when he goes out of Town. He has leeway in his current position to remain certified as a part of his duties in Greenwich.

Mr. Muller made a motion to appoint Larry Roberts as the Deputy Fire Marshall. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the Fuel Cell project- Don Gary

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Ms. Weinstein said that she thought we were on our way to the next step with this project, but the dollars are still not to our benefit. Mr. Gary said Ms. Weinstein, the school, and their consultant had a conference call with CL&P. CL&P is taking the position that even though the legislation allowing virtual net metering passed, they are still going to try to charge the same transmission and delivery charges. Mr. Bliss called his contact at DPUC and explained to him what was going on and he said he would talk to their counsel and get back to Mr. Bliss as to what their position was.

Discussion/decision regarding the acceptance of a gift from Weston Little League for a batting cage valued at \$8,000 – Joseph Cina

Joseph Cina said they would like to give the Town another batting cage that will go on Bisceglie 2. The cage is identical as the cage on Bisceglie 1. They have spoken to the Building Inspector and Conservation Planner and they both said that they were all set.

Mr. Muller said that Weston Little League has been extremely forth coming when it comes to gifts but also the more crucial component is Weston Little League like all of their other gifts to the Town assumes responsibility for upkeep of the gift.

Mr. Muller made a motion to accept a gift from Weston Little League for a batting cage valued at \$8,000, pending all required Town approvals and with the condition that the Weston Little League accepts responsibility for all future cost that may be incurred. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Discussion/decision regarding authorization for the Town Clerk to execute a certified resolution for a Historic Document Preservation Grant for \$3,500.

Ms. Weinstein said this is a grant that we apply for every year and we need a resolution authorizing the First Selectmen to sign any documents that are needed.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to adopt a resolution for the Town Clerk to obtain a Historic Document Preservation Grant for \$3,500. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding waiving the fee associated with the Weston Women's League application for a special permit to operate a farmer's market.

Heather Levy from the Weston Women's League said the Weston Farmers Market has been in operation for over 20 years in Weston. The Weston Women's League charges a vendor fee of \$15 and \$12 and all of the proceeds go to Weston Social Services Organizations. That includes the Weston Warm-Up Fund, the Weston Senior Center and the Weston Historical Society as rent and recently they have been purchasing turkeys for Thanksgiving baskets.

According to the Planning and Zoning Commission it has always been illegal in Weston to hold a farmers market. They need to apply for a special permit which will protect them against complaints. They have submitted their application to Planning and Zoning and will be at the public hearing on July 18th. They are asking the Board of Selectmen to waive the fee that is attached to the special permit.

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Ms. Wirtenberg gave some background on how the Farmer's Market worked in the past. The market had originally been located on Town property which is exempt from Planning and Zoning. When they moved to the Historical Society, that is when it became illegal and why they now need a permit.

Mr. Muller said his only concern is whether we are favoring one organization over another, when others are also required to have a permit. Mr. Gilbert said that if we are dealing with a non-profit organization like this one, we should waive the fee. Ms. Weinstein wanted to make the Board aware that this is something that may need to be approved on an annual basis, depending on the length of the permit.

Mr. Muller said because this entity is a nonprofit organization and an organization whose mission is aligned specifically with a mission that the Board of Selectmen have opted to choose, he would agree to support the request for the waiver of \$250.00. Ms. Weinstein explained that the Board cannot waive the State portion of the permit fee. Ms. Weinstein said that her decision is based solely on the fact that all the money that is raised through this venture is going back to help people in our Town.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to waive the Land Use fee of \$250.00 associated with the Weston's Women's League application for a special permit to operate a farmer's market. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Weston for FY 2010 Homeland Security Grant. Ms. Weinstein said that this is another grant that they get every year. It is a regional grant and all of the Towns in our region, the region 1 emergency management region, need to sign off so that the region can get funding for various projects.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Weston for FY 2010 Homeland Security Grant. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds

Alberto Jimenez	\$9.00
Media Group of Conn. Inc.	\$83.42
CAB East LLC	\$839.35
Ally Financial	\$132.51
Honda Financial Services	<u>\$120.13</u>
Total	\$1,184.41

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,184.41 as listed on the July 7, 2011 agenda. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

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Ongoing updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- No new news.

Ticker File, Discuss as updated

Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry- No new news

Any business to come properly before the meeting- None

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's minutes of June 2, 2011 and June 16, 2011. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2011 and June 16, 2011 Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:40pm Mr. Gilbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 7/21/11