

Board of Selectmen's meeting
January 19, 2012

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Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Sharon Shattuck

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available online on the Town website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:50pm

Pledge of Allegiance-

Discussion/decision regarding a resolution for 2011 Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal from the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA)- Tracey Kulikowski- Tracey said the Regional Performance Incentive Program is a State program through the Office of Policy and Management that is designed to encourage municipalities to work together to procure services. The purpose of this grant is to gather digital orthoimagery or planametric data. Essentially planes fly over all eight towns in the region and get the data for all eight Towns on the same scale at the same time to use for geographic information systems services. Each of the towns has different capabilities and levels of service that they provide but this is to get a base line for everyone to have the same data.

Ms. Weinstein said that the Town of Weston is looking into purchasing a GIS system which she believes all of the other Towns have. If we decide to go ahead with the GIS system, it would save us a lot of money because the initial flyover would be done and it would give us information that we can use. There is no cost to the Town nor do we have to commit any funds.

Ms. Kulikowski said by participating with other Towns, it increases the likelihood that the grant could get funded. Mr. Tracey asked if we approve these resolutions, would the grant from the State be given to SWRPA for the creation of a regional GIS system. Ms. Kulikowski said it is base data for a GIS system. SWRPA has a GIS system, and the other seven Towns do as well but different Towns are using different data with different levels of accuracy and had there flyovers done at different times. This allows SWRPA and the other agencies to have the same base data so that they can connect. Its data that goes into a software system where different towns can use that data based on their different capabilities.

Mr. Muller moved that the Board of Selectmen adopt a resolution endorsing the 2011 Regional Performance Incentive Program Proposal from the South Western Regional Planning Agency. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the transfer of property within the reconfigured cul de sac on Oak Lane from the Town of Weston to owners of adjacent land on Oak

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Lane. There was discussion at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding whether the Town should initiate the transfer of property from the temporary cul de sac to the homeowners that are adjacent to it.

Ms. Weinstein said she spoke to former First Selectman George Guidera who had no recollection of any of this, although he said that it sounded like something the Town would and should do. He felt that Planning and Zoning would be desirous of this action, since it would bring the three lots into conformity, but he did not remember any actual facts surrounding this particular case. The map marked "Rolling Hills sub-division" did have a stamp by Planning and Zoning. She asked Ms. Kulikowski to check to see if in fact the sub-division map shows that that was what was approved.

Ms. Kulikowski said that there were two maps that refer to this situation. The map that Ms. Weinstein is referring to is number 2095. She did find the motion for the approval for the sub-division which took place in 1968. They approved the filing of the Mylar on August 7, 1969 and in the 1968 minutes they specifically addressed lots D4 and D5 which are the two lots that are currently undersized, and discussed with the sub-divider that they would determine how and in what manner later it would be addressed. There was going to be a 50 foot right of way that was going to come off of that to connect to a future property for development. The transfer of this property has been contemplated since 1968.

Ms. Weinstein said that we need to speak with the other homeowners to make sure that, before we transfer the property, that they actually do want it. After that, we would have to create deeds and would bring it to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24 report. She asked that we speak to the homeowners, create the deeds and submit our request for an 8-24 report to Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Tracey said although there is no official document, it is clear to him that there was a commitment by the Town to transfer this property to these homeowners and he thinks we should abide by that. Mr. Muller said, as he had said before, that one of the benefits of government is that you get to correct things that didn't quite occur as they should have in the past.

Mr. Tracey moved that we authorize the First Selectman to submit a request for an 8-24 report from the Planning and Zoning Commission related to this issue. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the State's decision regionalizing OSET- John Ojarovsky- Mr. Ojarovsky said that they are technically known as PSAP which for the State of Connecticut is a Public Safety Answering Point. Specifically they answer 911 calls within the Town of Weston.

Yesterday, he attended an OSET meeting which is under the Department of Public Safety. OSET is the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications and the meeting was to present the PSAP consolidation feasibility study. In 2010, Connecticut

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Senate Bill 312 passed which was an act mandating the regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunications Centers. It was vetoed by Governor Rell because it did not take into consideration what the Towns and Municipalities had to say about it. In October 2010, Public Act 10125 charged the Connecticut 911 Commission that this study be conducted. Mr. Ojarovsky went through the study which is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muller asked if the proposal that they are looking at in the report would only impact 911 calls. Mr. Ojarovsky said yes. Ms. Weinstein said that is really what the issue is.

Mr. Ojarovsky said they mention early in the review that the regionalization was going to be State mandated, meaning the State telling us what to do, or State facilitated, which would involve us talking to our neighbors and coordinating something from the bottom up. Analysis of the data collected resulted in the creation of two models. The Optimum model or the best scenario for the State and it focused on creating on the number of PSAPs that were necessary to balance the 911 call volume across the PSAPs. The next one was based on the DEMHS configuration, with five regions already in place.

The Optimum Model proposes three regions which would equalize 911 call volume between three districts. DEMHS has 5 regions. Mr. Muller asked what was the rationale for marrying Homeland Security with fire, police and EMS. Ms. Weinstein said that they are talking strictly 911 calls.

The summary in the report was specific. Connecticut has far too many PSAPs statewide and is doing well with the technology. While an optimum approach may be ideal for consolidation, it is a monumental effort to undertake and very expensive. They would prefer a focus on a grass roots initiative with State guidance.

If the 32 municipalities in the "Group 2" PSAPs (including Weston) don't move toward consolidation on their own, it is highly recommended that the State proactively intervene to facilitate their consolidation. Right now there is a \$250,000 per municipality incentive to do so.

Ms. Weinstein said she is in favor of regionalization to a point, but she is in favor of doing it with other Towns that makes sense to regionalize with. One of her concerns is when the State gets involved, what they normally do is hand you a stick or a carrot and here they are giving you both. They are saying if you decide to look into regionalizing we have grant money available to help you, if you don't, she strongly believes that the legislature will mandate that we regionalize. Her concern is she wants to be able to do it on our terms not on their terms.

She had the conversation with the police commission to talk about the potential for sharing services with Redding and Easton. To her, that grouping made sense because we are three Towns of similar size. The very preliminary budget that was given to them by the Chief of Police showed that there was a \$250,000 saving in just the operating budget if we decide to regionalize with them. Her big concern is having a dark police department because right now our communications center is the only "live body" we have here at

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night. She did ask the police to look into that, and they felt that they needed someone present 24/7.

There are other options, and depending on what the other Selectmen thoughts are, she will either continue to pursue or not. Mr. Muller said his concern is that the broader the region that is covered by a regional dispatch, the higher the probability that there is going to be error and there is going to be delay. Ms. Weinstein said she has no doubt that our dispatchers can be trained, regardless of where they physically are, to know all of those locations. Mr. Muller said what she outlined, sharing services with Westport, Weston, Easton does make sense, but the farther you get away from that core group, the more the likelihood is that you lose oversight. Ms. Weinstein said she agreed and there is certainly a level of comfort with certain Towns more so than with other Towns.

Ms. Weinstein said her other concern is she does not want to be forced to regionalize with a Town that there is no confidence in their ability. Mr. Tracey said that anything that the State mandates he is skeptical of, and he would much rather have us take our own fate in our hands and examine the possibilities. Given the huge amount of investment we have to make in the communication center to keep it in its current state, we really have to look at some minimal level of cooperation among different Towns. He is very much in favor of exploring it.

Mr. Tracey asked if there was a written log of the calls that come in, and if the purpose is recorded. Mr. Tracey asked if they could keep a written log because he thinks it would be helpful for their analysis. Ms. Weinstein asked if they could begin with a period of a week. Mr. Ojarovsky said yes.

Mr. Pokorny, Fire Marshall and Fire Chief, said that we are talking about two separate issues. One is the PSAP consolidation and other is their Communication Center consolidation. There are other people who will want to be part of the Communication Center discussion. Ms. Weinstein said there will be other conversations; this was a preliminary discussion.

Mr. Tracey asked what the plan is. Ms. Weinstein said we will continue to watch and see what the State says. She will talk to our State legislators and see what they say and she will continue the conversations that she has had with our neighbors.

Discussion/decision regarding adopting the policies and procedures for the Town's Government Access Channel- Mr. Tracey said that the word indemnified should be indemnify.

Mr. Muller made a motion that the Board of Selectmen adopts the Town of Weston's Government Access Channel policy and procedures as amended. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the Mission Statement for the Legal Review Committee- Mr. Tracey suggested that in the second sentence of the second paragraph

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we add a review of legal opinions. Mr. Muller said he would prefer not to have the name of the firm. He said if we are doing a review to ensure consistency it would behoove us to review all legal counsel not just Town counsel. Mr. Tracey agreed.

Mr. Tracey moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Mission Statement for the Legal Review Committee as amended. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds-

Claire Ingram	\$6,582.31
Jeremy & Derry Blatt	\$92.12
Carlos R. Mello	\$52.04
Nissan Infinity LT	\$576.54
BMW Financial Services	\$496.44
CAB East LLC	\$280.12
GMAC	\$221.68
Honda Lease Trust	<u>\$39.33</u>
Total	\$8,340.58

Mr. Muller moved to refund property tax refunds in the amount of \$8,340.58 as list on the January 19th Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Item

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Emergency Preparedness- Joe Miceli has been working on developing a CERT team. We will be having training in Weston for those who want to become CERT certified. It is the weekend of March 3rd and 4th and there will be information in the Forum and the online papers.

Discussion/approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 5, 2012. Tabled to the next meeting.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None

**Executive Session- For the purpose of evaluation of employee performance as permitted by CGS Sec.1-200 (6).
Potential Land acquisition**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 8:50 pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Tracey present. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Landry and Park and Recreation Director Dave Ungar.

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DISCUSSION: The meeting was called to discuss with Mr. Ungar the nature and adequacy of his oversight and management of the Revson Field renovation project.

No votes were taken.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:35 pm, a motion (David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:36 pm, a motion to adjourn (Dennis Tracey, David Muller second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 2/2/12