

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, October 1st, 2015, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman David Muller, Selectman Dennis Tracey, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents

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

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

Discussion/decision regarding the Weston High School Turf Field contribution by the Boosters Club – Carla Welsh

Ms. Weinstein said she was approached by the Boosters Club about a year ago regarding a change to their contribution schedule for the Turf Field Replacement Fund. Ms. Clevenger had a conversation with BOE and agreed to raise the student athlete's fee by \$25, where \$10 of this increase will go towards the Turf Replacement Fund. It is projected that they can raise approximately \$7800.00. Mr. Muller moved that the Board of Selectmen reduce the contribution by the Booster Club to the Turf Replacement Fund by an amount equivalent to what we receive from the Board of Education for that purpose, beginning FY 2015/16. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Decision regarding the submission of a CGS Section 8-24 referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and, if necessary, the submission of a wetlands application to the Conservation Commission, regarding the construction of a greenhouse at the Lachat Farm at the Juliana Lachat Preserve – Ellen McCormick.

Ms. McCormick presented drawings and estimates for a greenhouse at Lachat Farm. The cost of the greenhouse will be mostly covered by the grant. It will be placed in the location of the Hoop House. Because this is a building that requires a foundation, P & Z referral is needed. Conservation is not needed. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the submission of a CGS Section 8-24 referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the construction of a greenhouse at the Lachat Farm at the Juliana Lachat Preserve. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a survey of the Registrar's salaries – Theresa Brasco, Registrar.

Ms. Brasco read a statement regarding her resignation. (see attached).

Ms. Weinstein responded to Ms. Brasco's concerns. She felt that she did fairly respond to Ms. Brasco's requests. Ms. Weinstein had a salary and compensation survey done to see if the Registrar's salary is in line with other town Registrars. The Town Consultant, Randi Frank, completed the survey. Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Landry had Ms. Frank double check her data as well. Ms. Brasco didn't feel the data was accurate and questioned the process. Ms. Brasco collected data from other registrars and that data didn't match what Ms. Frank collected. (See comparison chart from Ms. Frank). Hourly Pay/Stipends/Health Insurance data was inconsistent.

Mr. Tracey suggested that Ms. Brasco write down all of the things that she feels are inconsistent and provide it to the consultant. She said that she spoke to Ms. Frank and went over these items. Mr. Tracey still wanted Ms. Brasco to write it all down and submit.

Mr. Mark Harper asked if Ms. Brasco gets her annual reviews and income increases in steps like other positions. Mr. Landry replied that her position doesn't fall in that category. Mr. Harper also asked if all

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Registrars have to live in the town since it is an elected position. Mr. Landry said yes, they are required to live in town. Ms. Weinstein clarified that you can live temporarily out of town. Ms. Margaret Wirtenberg made a statement complementing Ms. Brasco's work and wanted to thank her.

Ms. Britta Lerner added that registrars have consistently worked in a bi-partisan manner and it is not clear why things have changed and become more personal. Ms. Weinstein agreed and she felt that Ms. Brasco's comments were very personal.

Ms. Nina Daniel reminded all that Ms. Brasco is not a candidate, she is a loyal employee. And this issue should not be political.

Ms. Donna Anastasia stated that there isn't another registrar like Ms. Brasco in the state. She is a serious worker and has turned the whole department around. She stated it would be a huge loss to our town. Ms. Anastasia also asked why the original agenda for this meeting didn't have the Registrar's item listed and questioned the revised agenda postings by Ms. Derene. Ms. Derene stated that the original agenda was posted prematurely without Ms. Weinstein adding all items. Then when she went to post the revised agenda, but she mistakenly posted the wrong one, caught the mistake, and then posted the correct one.

Discussion/decision of the Registrar's Salary will be deferred to the next meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding the Global Facilities Report

Ms. Weinstein stated that she put together a facilities report in response to Mr. Tracey's request at the May 7th meeting. She stated she would make sure that Ms. Derene posts this report on line. Ms. Uzenoff stated that she feels the committee should review the report before it gets posted. Ms. Weinstein clarified this is a report solely created by the First Selectman, not the committee. There are copies of back-up documentation available for review. These binders contain: Board of Selectmen Minutes, (Ms. Daniel asked if the minutes were approved and if not they say draft). Board of Education Minutes, Global Facilities Minutes, Correspondence, Hurlbutt Deed, Reports from 3 different architects (Silver – Petrucelli, Jacunski Humes and KG&D), as well as Facility Options and Financing. Ms. Weinstein presented her executive summary (see attached). Regarding financing, she tried to be as conservative as possible. She would rather the numbers be high than be too low. Regarding operational costs, she thanked Mr. Landry and Dr. Palmer for providing all estimates. Mr. Tracey responded that he is not yet convinced that we should build a new building. He is concerned about our debt levels. He would like a comparison that shows the costs for renovating the police department without expanding. Ms. Weinstein stated that the reason we started researching this project is that the current space is inadequate... and just renovating the space wouldn't solve our problems. There will be a conference call set with Brian Humes to discuss what it would cost to just renovate the current space. Ms. Weinstein said that she wants to make sure she has the support of the whole board and wouldn't move ahead without that. She also stated that she feels it is up to the public to determine whether we can afford it or not. We have a high reserve fund of 16.4% for projects like this one. Mr. Muller felt this was a very good overview. He stated the answer is somewhere between the maximum and the minimum... and keeping in mind the cost and the long term benefit to the town. Ms. Weinstein also suggested the board goes on a field trip to go visit other police stations to compare facilities and efficiency of operations. Ms. Nina Daniel asked to clarify the process of how this report was created, thinking it was coming from one person. Ms. Weinstein clarified that the purpose of the report is to explain how we got from here to there and all the information was based on summarizing all the work that has been done by the BOS, BOF and GFC. And it is a report created in response to Mr. Tracey's request.

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Ms. Wirtenberg spoke and stated that the GFC meetings were informal, and there wasn't a set group of people that attended each meeting. She also thanked Ms. Weinstein for putting this whole report together.

Mr. Tracey stated that he felt this report is exactly what we needed. He feels that it is important that the entire town can see what is being proposed.

Discussion/decision regarding Property Tax Refunds as per list attached for a total of \$2998.45.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the property tax refunds as per list attached for the total of \$2998.45. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the approval of BOS minutes from 9/3 and 9/16

Mr. Muller moved to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes from 9/3/15. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Mr. Tracey abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes from 9/16/15. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Item: First Selectman's Update:

-Senior Activities Center Update: Ms. Helen DeKeijzer is proposing a new logo and signage for The Weston Senior Center. They are looking to call it "The Hub" and make it more welcoming and attract some of the younger seniors in town. New logo attached. They would like to use on their monthly newsletters and above their doors (which would need to be approved by the BOE).

-Bridge Update: Two lanes on Old Mill and Georgetown road are now open. There are delays and will not make their deadline. Heavy rains held up the paving. Ms. Weinstein will have conversation with the state contractor tomorrow.

-Ms. Weinstein says that Mr. Landry has been trying to contact the Ct DOT to find out what the project is. It is culvert replacement work that will take approximately three years. The work will not be going on for three years, but we need to find out exactly when the work will be done in our town.

-The state is having some budget rescissions. Our pilot grant is being reduced by \$6400 and we will be losing 5% of our Youth Service Bureau money. MORE Commission had to take away some funds from municipalities to make up for the state wide deficit in the budget, mid-cycle. We haven't been hit as hard as other towns like Westport and Wilton.

Any other business to come properly before this meeting: None

Meeting Adjourned: 9:16pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Randi Derene
Administrative Assistant

Approved: 10/29/15