

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

March 17, 2011

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

Mr. Gilbert joined the meeting by phone.

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

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

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

Accept the resignation of David E. Allen from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective immediately. Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the resignation of David Allen from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective immediately. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Seth Miller to the Veteran's Affairs Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2012. This item was tabled to another meeting.

Update on the Lachat house from the Lachat Homestead Committee. Robert Uzenoff and David Coprio from the Lachat Homestead Committee did a presentation on the Lachat house. Looking at the outside of the building there is chimney damage. The house is not safe and there is further deterioration. Gutters are hanging down, the porch is being held up with 2 X 4's. There is moss going on parts of the roof and the foundation is falling in. One side the house is bowing in.

Mr. Muller said that the house is not safe and something should be posted on the house. Ms. Weinstein will talk to the Building Inspector and the Fire Marshal and have them look at it tomorrow.

Discussion/decision regarding setting the interest rate on the Elderly Deferment Program. Ms. Weinstein said last year we set the rate at prime plus 50 basis points so the rate stays the same this year at 3.75%. She wants to discuss changing the ordinance to read that the interest is set it at prime plus 50 bases points so we do not have to vote on it every year. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Muller agreed. An ordinance change requires a public hearing.

Mr. Muller made a motion to hold a public hearing on May 5th at 7:20pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to Article II Tax Relief for the Elderly. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding raising the limit of the Senior Tax Relief Programs.

Ms. Weinstein said that according to the Ordinance we can increase the amount of funds set aside for tax relief pending Board of Finance approval. Last year we had to prorate because we were over by \$44,000. She asked the Selectmen if they wanted to raise the ceiling of \$600,000.

Mr. Muller said we are likely to have a second year in a row where there is sufficient demand, he would not have a problem raising the amount to at least accommodate what we were unable to accommodate last year. Mr. Gilbert felt that we want to be able to provide for people who qualify under the regulation. Ms. Weinstein said that this does impact the mill rate as it is subtracted before the mill rate is set.

After some discussion Mr. Muller made a motion to raise the Maximum Relief in sec. 10-23 item B in Article II. Tax Relief for the elderly from \$600,000 to \$625,000 pending Board of Finance approval. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Decision regarding a resolution authorizing the First Selectman, Gayle Weinstein to negotiate and execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Weston with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Municipal Dial- A- Ride Grant Program.

Ms. Weinstein said that the Dial-A-Ride is a grant that we get every year. We are hoping it is that same amount as in previous years, which was \$16,058. The grant is included in the governor's budget and she is very hopeful that it will be included in the final budget package presented by the general assembly.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the First Selectman, to negotiate and execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Weston with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Municipal Dial- A- Ride Grant Program. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a proposed Weston ordinance regarding bulky printed material on private property. Mr. Muller said that this is something that is being considered in a number of municipalities around the State and the country. The ordinance was prepared in coordination with Town counsel and it states why we are doing this which is to protect public safety, reduce unnecessary environmental waste and to save money for the tax payer. It sets a limit on the delivery of any bulky material consisting of more than 100 pages. Even if a resident has not opted out a deliverer cannot continually just pile up on top of documents that are already there.

In January a new Statute was proposed at the State level that would require the publishers of residential telephone directories to obtain the consent of such residents prior to delivery. That Statute is little more specific than what we are doing. This not an attempt to single out phone directories; it is more size and bulk that we are looking at.

After some discussion on the ordinance Ms. Weinstein thought the ordinance should read “printed material distributed on private property”. Some of Mr. Gilbert’s suggestions were incorporated. Ms. Weinstein will go over the proposed ordinance with Town counsel again. A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muller made a motion to hold a public hearing on May 5th at 7: 00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to hear public comment on a proposed ordinance regarding Bulky Printed Material Distribution on Private Property. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Ongoing updates

Valley Forge Bridge- Tom Landry- The bridge is open but the project is not quite complete. Administratively there are still months of things going on there.

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- We filled out the application for the Safe Routes to School Grant.

Ticker File, Discuss as updated

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

Any other business to come properly before the meeting.- None

Discussion/approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s meeting of March 3, 2011. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

At 8:20pm Mr. Muller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant.
Approved 3/31/11