

## **Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**September 30, 2009**

Present: First Selectman Woody Bliss; Selectman W. Glenn Major; Selectwoman Gayle Weinstein; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; residents and a member from the press.

**This meeting was recorded and video taped and the tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.**

Mr. Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

**Pledges of Allegiance-** Mr. Major led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Food Pantry-** Stephan Grozinger said that he met with Betsy Peyreigne and Matt Brodacki and they have agreed that it is a good idea to set-up an LLC to run the food pantry. They thought the one year term in the lease was far too short and they felt that 30 years was the lowest they could go. They talked about this and the fact that the Town may want to relocate them, because the location may interfere with the development of the Town Hall. If the Town decided to take over this service, the town might want to terminate the lease, all of those reasons were built into the lease.

Mr. Bliss and Mr. Grozinger met this afternoon and Mr. Grozinger thinks that they have hammered out a lot of the issues. He has sent the lease onto Ken Bernhard to look at. One substantive issue is the insurance. The food pantry and Mr. Grozinger believe that the Town is probably the most appropriate agency to get an endorsement on their insurance. The PBA so far has insured them, but that is more of a fail safe. He said the PBA has been very generous, but the Town is much more appropriate to do that.

Mr. Grozinger gave a draft lease to the Selectmen to look over. Mr. Bliss said that Ken Bernhard has the draft lease and will get back to us with any comments. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Major said that he was having an issue with an organization that is paying \$1.00 a year rent telling them that they need to give them a 30 year lease. He realizes there was initial expense of \$10,000, but beyond that, the way this property gets used, the pantry could have to be relocated. He said that we are trying for the same goal, but he wants to make sure that we are not losing site of the fact that it is Town property.

**Discussion/decision regarding progress on developing background information for special revenue, enterprise and private trust funds.- Tom Landry**

Mr. Landry said that they identified 28 accounts in the last audit. After that audit three of them were dissolved, so that we had 25. Since that time, one more was created, which was the OPEB trust fund. He said they went through as many records as they could find

and if they needed a will, trust document, a memo asking for documents, they have all of that.

If there was nothing there they wrote narratives. There about seven school accounts that they need information on, but the school had not responded. There is a trust fund for Hurlbutt, which is for grounds maintenance. There is a trust fund at the High School for scholarships and one for school lunch program. There is a separate one for Board of Education grants. The BoE has a gift fund and one for school athletics.

Mr. Landry said that there a couple more accounts that we can get rid of and go to the next step of deciding what is the right amount to sweep out. Mr. Major said that there are a number of accounts that in a fiscal year where we are trying to keep the budget increase to a minimum or no increase at all, we may be able to use some of those accounts to supplement 2010-2011 budget depending on what department it fits.

Mr. Major asked what the chances where of having this project completed by the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Landry said very good.

**Request for property refund:**

<b>Stefan Chopin</b>	<b>\$7,495.00</b>
<b>Mercedes Benz Financial</b>	<b>\$2,380.99</b>
<b>BMW Financial Services</b>	<b>\$656.34</b>
<b>Ford Motor Credit Corp</b>	<b>\$438.06</b>
<b>GMAC</b>	<b>\$394.67</b>
<b>Honda Financial Services</b>	<b>\$273.33</b>
<b>Toyota Financial Services</b>	<b>\$114.79</b>
<b>Chrysler Financial</b>	<b>\$87.93</b>
<b>Ari Fleet</b>	<b>\$82.18</b>
<b>Donna Cheftel</b>	<b>\$24.49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,947.78</b>

Mr. Major made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to make property tax refunds in the total amount of \$11,947.78 subject to review and approval with the Tax Collector. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Open Items**

**Ongoing update**

Food Pantry Lease- Awaiting PBA reply- Woody Bliss

FAA- Woody Bliss- This is in the hands of the Attorney General who is pursuing an appeal to the US Supreme Court..

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- The application period for the energy grant that they are eligible for begins October 1, 2009. Mr. Landry intends to write an application to replace air conditioning units on Town property.

Mr. Bliss wants Fuel Cells on the list. He said that they had a meeting with CL&P and then the DPUC. They met with the commissioner who is responsible for electrical energy and after that he arranged for them to meet with the chairman of the DPUC. This is the second case in Connecticut. Mr. Bliss said with municipalities we are leading the way with the Fuel Cell. He is expecting an answer back from them by the end of October.

**Tickler file, discuss as updated**

Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry

Booster Barn- Woody Bliss- We have a cost estimate in now that we have rearranged the Booster Barn and expanded the size. Mr. Conte has come up with an alternate proposal which saves about \$70,000. That proposal is to build concrete building instead of the pre-fab. Mr. Conte's best guess is that mid-November to Thanksgiving for completion.

Lachat- W. Glenn Major- the committee will be at the next Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Bliss said that he took a gentleman, Greg Farmer, from the Connecticut Trust for Historical Preservation, for a tour of Lachat. He had a lot of comments with regard to what needed to be done and he was going to send Mr. Bliss some grant application information. He thought that there were many opportunities for grants. Mr. Farmer said from his view point the best use of the property is as a rental property as a residence.

January Tax Collection- Report- Tom Landry

**Discussion/approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the Special Board of Selectmen's minutes.** Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, 2009. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes September 11, 2009. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of September 17, 2009. Mr. Major seconded. A correction to take out June and replace with September. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:16pm Ms. Weinstein made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Major seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session- Contract Negotiations Dispatch and Highway Department**

ATTENDANCE and DISCUSSION: The meeting was convened at 8:18 PM in the First Selectman's office by Chairman Bliss, with Mr. Major and Ms. Weinstein present. Also present was Town Administrator Landry.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Mr. Landry briefed the Board on the Tentative Agreements he reached this week with both the Highway and Dispatch bargaining units. No votes were taken.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board voted unanimously (Ms. Weinstein, motion; Mr. Major second) to end executive session and reconvene in open session. The time was 8:47 pm.

SCHEDULE DISCUSSION: The Board members agreed that they could not take a vote on the proposed agreements, as this was a special meeting, and the discussion was listed on the posted meeting agenda as an executive session item only. The Board will attempt to schedule a meeting for Friday the second, at which the Agreements can be considered.

ADJOURN: At 8:51 pm, a motion (Mr. Major, Ms. Weinstein second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 10/15/09