

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

**November 19, 2009**

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dan Gilbert; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito, Press and members of the public.

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

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:55pm

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Eileen Buckley leads the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion/decision regarding Board of Selectmen ground rules-** Ms. Weinstein said she thought it is helpful when any board gets together to figure out what the rules are from the beginning. She is looking forward to working with the two other selectmen and felt they bring unique ideas and backgrounds to the board. She said that they all deserve respect and they all have an equal say on the board.

The Selectmen all have been given a packet regarding FOI because the number 1 issue they face as a three person board is the FOI regulations. Ms. Weinstein is going to try to have the agenda set by Monday so that the Board of Selectmen meeting packets can be completed hopefully by Tuesday afternoon. This way the Selectmen can have time to review the information and come prepared for the meeting. She wants everyone to have time to state their opinion but to move the meetings along quickly. She will continue Mr. Bliss's tradition of allowing public comment where appropriate after the Selectmen's discussion and asked the public to also be respectful of the Selectmen and each other.

**Accept the resignation of David Muller from the Board of Finance effective November 10, 2009.** A motion to accept the resignation of David Muller from the Board of Finance effective November 10, 2009 was moved by Mr. Gilbert seconded by Ms. Weinstein. Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Muller recused.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Sherwood B. Bliss as a Moderator for a term to expire December 31, 2013.** A motion to appoint Sherwood B. Bliss as a Moderator for a term to expire December 31, 2013 was moved by Mr. Gilbert seconded by David Muller and passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Debbie Rehr to fill the vacancy (Marilyn Parker) as an alternate on The Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2013.** Ms. Rehr said she has been a Weston resident for over 19 years and has been working in real estate at Camelot for the past 3 ½ years. She has been to the assessor's office many times and is familiar with the field cards. She has been in hundreds of houses in Weston and is very familiar with real estate tax issues. She feels

she would be an asset to the Board. Mr. Gilbert asked if she would have any conflicts of interest. Ms. Rehr said she would recuse herself if she had a conflict of interest. Ms. Weinstein asked if she was familiar with the process. She said she had been through the process.

Mr. Muller made a motion to appoint Debbie Rehr to fill the vacancy (Marilyn Parker) as an alternate on The Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Deirdre Doran to fill the vacancy (Susan Briggs) on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2013.** Ms. Doran said that she has lived in Weston for 13 years and she had served on the Board of Trustee's for the library for almost two years. The library is important in her life and she has been following some of the trends. She would love to be a part of the outreach of Friends of the Library. She is exciting about the new plans coming along in the next decade and would like to be a part of how they can plan to improve the library.

Mr. Muller made a motion to appoint Deirdre Doran to fill the vacancy on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Anne Hunt to fill the vacancy (Tom Loeb) on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2013.** Ms. Hunt said that she has 11 grandkids and reading is extremely important and she would like to show them that we are committed to encouraging them to read by being a member of the Library Board.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to appoint Anne Hunt to fill the vacancy of Tom Loeb on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Mark Harper as the Animal Control Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2010.** Mr. Harper said that he will be in the position for 20 years next year. He is working on a report that Ms. Weinstein had requested and will present it to the Selectmen for their review prior to any decisions.

Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint Mark Harper as the animal control officer for a term to expire December 31, 2010. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Rack Gleason as the Building Inspector for a term to expire December 31, 2013.** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Rack Gleason as the Building Inspector for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of John Pokorny as the Fire Marshal for a term to expire December 31, 2011.** Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint John Pokorny as the Fire Marshal for a term to expire December 31, 2011. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Michael Ferullo as the Emergency Management Director for a term to expire December 31, 2011.** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Michael Ferullo as the Emergency Management Director for a term to expire December 31, 2011. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding an amendment to the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Ordinance- Martin Strasmore.** Ms. Weinstein said the discussion that we had for the Fuel Vehicle Ordinance did not match the ordinance that we put in place. There was some concern because of the wording. When we voted on the ordinance we thought we were talking about the date the car was purchased, when the ordinance was written up it talks about the date that the car was registered. There was confusion as to whether you needed to go to Town Hall to actually apply for this or was it automatic.

The question before the Board is, do we reopen this ordinance to the Town so that these 24 people who had purchased vehicles that would qualify in the time frame specified in the ordinance can get their exemption. Ms. Weinstein read from the minutes which Mr. Bliss had said "the ordinance applies to anyone who buys a car from September 1, 2008 to November 1, 2008". When the ordinance was written, that was not what was stated. Ms. Weinstein is recommending that we reopen the ordinance and put it back on the table to include these vehicles at the \$7,500 cap which we had initiated in the ordinance.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to have a public hearing to amend the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Ordinance on January 7, 2010 at 7:00pm. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding changing the date of the December 17, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.** Ms. Weinstein said she needs to change the date for the next Selectmen's meeting because she has a conflict. Mr. Muller made a motion to change the time of the meeting on December 17, 2009 to 8:30pm. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding an amendment to the Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance- Charity Nichols.** Charity Nichols said the proposed change would have all three programs have the same file date. The deferment file date is June fifteen and the other programs are May fifteen. Changing this would help so that the tax collector does not have to manually recalculate the bills.

Mr. Muller made a motion to schedule a public hearing on January 7, 2009 at 7:15pm. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding schedule of Selectmen's meetings for 2010-** Ms. Weinstein said she had a conflict with the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. After some brief discussion the February meeting was changed to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the presented schedule Selectmen's meeting 2010, the first and third Thursday of the month with the exception of February which is as amended. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the budget review schedule 2010-11.** Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the budget review schedule as presented. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Town Hall Holiday Schedule for 2010.** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to accept the Town Hall Offices Holiday Schedule as proposed. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding goals of the Board of Selectmen.** Ms. Weinstein said she would like the three Selectmen to come together as a team because she would like for them to have some big picture goals that the three of them can work on together. She said at our next meeting we can have some open discussion about what they want to accomplish in the next two years.

## **Open Items**

### **Ongoing update**

FAA- Woody Bliss- Mr. Bliss has agreed to stay on as our contact with the FAA and the lawsuit that is happening at the federal level with the Attorney General Blumenthal leading that. There is no new news.

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- Mr. Landry said that this was the energy grant for \$54,535 and the deadline was today. We are still working on the Old Hyde Paving grant. Ms. Weinstein said that we have had a ridiculous amount of hoops to go through just to apply for this grant. We have not heard back on the grant for the fire house and the grant for the sprinkler system for the fire house.

Ms. Weinstein said she will still be working on grants along with Tom Landry and Mike Ferullo. Mr. Strasmore is applying for a Community Block Energy Grant.

Fuel Cell- Gayle Weinstein- Ms. Weinstein said that the issue with tying in the meters is more than just tying in the electrical meters for the bill pay. If the DPUC lets us do that it means that we do not have to do any trenching to tie the two schools together. If the DPUC finds in our favor then we will have saved \$900,000 and a lot of work. We will find out in about 30 to 45 days. Mr. Landry said if they do not get that probably the finances of the project now are really at the point that it may not make sense to do it.

### **Tickler file, discuss as updated**

Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry- Mr. Landry said there has been nothing new since we got the last set of change orders. Those change orders have been reviewed, signed by Mr. Bliss and shipped off to the school facilities unit for resubmission. Ms. Weinstein said that we had to submit the change orders that were made so we could get reimbursement for the school building project.

Recycling- Tom Landry- We have been pursuing alternatives to our recycling efforts. We received a contract this week from the firm that we are disposing our rubbish with now. We are looking to contractually obligate with them to do the recyclables. Mr. Landry said that contract will be coming to the Board of Selectmen in a couple of meetings.

Booster Barn- Gayle Weinstein- Ms. Weinstein said that the bricks have been ordered and we just have the DEP issue that we are still working on. Mr. Landry said that DEP is yet to determine whether the application for the school that went to them for the septic system and Zenon plant includes a Booster Barn or not. The Town has plans that show the Booster Barn on it. The DEP said they do not see a map, they see a reference to a map number and they will look around when they can to see if they can find it. If they do not make that determination we will have to apply for a revision or an amendment to that permit before the Booster Barn can actually be hooked up.

January Tax Collection- Report- Tom Landry

Mr. Gilbert said he would like to put public safety on the table and asked about an Emergency Management Team. Ms. Weinstein said that the school has an Emergency Management Team and they do a lot of lock downs and fire drills to secure the schools. Ms. Weinstein said she would get Mike Ferullo to talk to the Selectmen about it at a Selectmen's meeting. She said that they should also talk to John Ojarovsky in the Communications Center.

**Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's minutes of November 5, 2009.** Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2009. Mr. Gilbert seconded. Ms. Weinstein yes. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Muller abstained since they were not on the Board at that time.

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

**Adjournment.** At 8:50pm 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 12/03/09

