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Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

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

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

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance-

Discussion/decision regarding Highway Department Grievance- Al Blizzard, President of the Highway Union, said that they are not doing this for any money. They don't care about the money. They care about the contract being honored in the way that it reads.

Ms. Weinstein said at the last meeting they had talked about the hours that they had worked. Mr. Landry did go back and look at the timecards and the hours, but they didn't really tell her the information she wanted to know. The information she wanted to know was how long of a stretch did they work and whether Mr. Lametta made a reasonable assumption by saying the guys were exhausted and they should go home.

In the meeting she had today with Al Blizzard, Joe Hayes and Brian Huegi they shared with her that they slept from midnight to 5:00am and they worked with breaks for food from 5:00am to 6:30pm. At that time, there was a conversation between one of the foremen and Mr. Lametta. The foreman did relate that he felt that the guys were exhausted and needed a break.

Ms. Weinstein said they got a call from CL&P who said that they could have a line crew here right away, but they needed a tree crew to assist them. Ms. Weinstein did not want to lose the crew and needed an immediate response from Mr. Lametta. Mr. Lametta spoke to the foreman who related that the guys were exhausted and needed a break so Mr. Lametta brought in a tree crew to work the night with the CL&P crew.

Ms. Weinstein said that given the fact that they were working from 5:00am to 6:30pm with meals but not having breaks to sleep for an appreciable amount of time, and given the fact that they are working with equipment, plus the fact that the foreman felt that they were exhausted, Mr. Lametta did make a reasonable assumption. Mr. Blizzard said they were never asked by the foreman either. Ms. Weinstein said going forward, they will make sure that the lines of communication are open so that we understand that one gentleman is not necessarily speaking for the group. We did declare a State of Emergency for the Town and she feels that Mr. Lametta's choice was logical and reasonable.

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Mr. Tracey said he echoes what Ms. Weinstein said. From his perspective, it is not about the money, it is really about fairness and about contract interpretation. In order to approve a grievance, we would have to conclude that there was an unreasonable decision to send them home, or that we can't give our supervisors the discretion to exercise reasonable oversight to ensure health and safety. He does not think they can conclude that here.

Mr. Muller said he would hang his hat on what is a normal issue and what is a situation when a State of Emergency is been declared, and the need for someone to make a decision be it right or wrong about whether it is safe to continue. There are two issues, one is you were told it is time to go home and the second is that an outside crew was brought in. There has to be someone who says yes, in my judgment, this is the logical decision to make. He believes that if they were asked to work three straight days for the Town they would do it. He thinks that this was a decision that was made in the perceived best interest of everyone involved.

Mr. Muller said because we were in a situation where a State of Emergency had been declared, that we needed to rely on someone making a recommendation as to staffing and manpower and he would abide by that decision.

Mr. Muller moved to deny the grievance filed by Weston's Highway Employees Union. Mr. Tracey seconded. Mr. Blizzard said when this contract was written it was written and now we are changing it so we are not really abiding by it. When they are negotiating they give up things to get things. Mr. Tracey said from his personal perspective, he is not relying on the emergency provision. He believes that their supervisor needs to be able to make reasonable decisions about how long they can work and with regard to health and safety. Ms. Weinstein said when we declare a State of Emergency, those are extenuating circumstances, where we have to be able to move quickly and rely on the information that we have. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Edward Schwarz to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Schwarz said the Conservation Commission applies State law regarding water courses and waterways, and under the law, it is their job to interpret the Statute. He believes that they are doing a good job and they are trying to interpret it as fairly and equitably as they can. They look at themselves as a commission that tries to help either the developer or private people that come before them if it is at all possible and while they change certain plans they rarely turn anyone down. He would like to continue what he has been doing and continue the progress that they have been making.

Mt. Tracey moved to reappoint Edward Schwarz to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Sandra Dadik as Weston's Representative to the Southwest Region of C-Med for term to expire June 30, 2012

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Ms. Dadik said she has been a member of C-Med since its second meeting which is approximately 20 years. Its initial charge was to coordinate the ambulance to hospital communications.

They also offer dispatching services. They dispatch for both fire and EMS and also offer pre-arrival instructions to patients in communities who feel that their dispatchers are not able to do it the way they would like to do it. Weston takes advantage of that service. They have an Executive Director and 14 employees and are located in Bridgeport hospital. They are just about to update their equipment. She has been the treasurer since the second year that she had been there.

Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Sandra Dadik as Weston's representative to the Southwest Region of C-Med for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Carl Bernstein to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Bernstein said he has been a member of the commission for ten years and has worked on Morehouse and Bisceglie Park.

Parks and Recreation is the best Commission in the world as far as he is concerned, because it gives him the opportunity to see kids doing what he loves to see them do best; having fun and enjoying the playing fields.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Carl Bernstein to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Lynn Phillips to the Commission for Children and Youth for a term to expire December 31, 2014

Ms. Phillips said that anything involving children and youth, any sort of programming, comes under their jurisdiction. They organize the WOW programs which are very ably run by Charlene Monn. Kristin Ferrara coordinates a lot of programming. Anything that falls between the ages of zero to eighteen is their territory.

Mr. Muller made a motion to reappoint Lynn Phillips to the Commission for Children and Youth for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Christopher Spaulding to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015-

Mr. Spaulding said what he was trying to do while he's on the commission is help the applicants understand that the Commission is not just not a hurdle to jump over, but they are an important part of preserving why people move to Weston. They are here to protect the environment and the specific kind of character that you can only find in a Town like Weston.

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Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Chris Spaulding to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Susan Moch to the Panel of Moderators for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Susan Moch said that she would like to continue to serve as a moderator. Ms. Weinstein asked if serving on the Charter Revision Committee changed the way that she viewed the role of the Panel of Moderators. She runs a meeting according to the way the Charter and the Statutes require. If the Charter changes then a meeting would have to be done differently.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Susan Moch to the Panel of Moderators for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Barbara Reynolds to the panel of Moderators for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Ms. Reynolds is the newest member on the Panel of Moderators. She said the two meetings that she has been at, she was parliamentarian. Ms. Weinstein asked about training. Ms. Moch said that there is a handbook and when they all get together they train the new people.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Barbara Reynolds to the Panel of Moderators for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Rick Darling as the Town of Weston's Treasurer for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Tracey said that we need to look into making sure that we have the proper bonding in place for the Treasurer which is required by State law.

Mr. Tracey made a motion to reappoint Rick Darling as the Town of Weston's Treasurer for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Robert S. Soloff to the Building Committee to fill the vacancy (Raisa Kendall) for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Soloff said that he was asked to serve by David Coprio who is a member of the Building Committee. He has attended two or three meetings as an observer. He found it to be a very interesting group that is charged with a handling a number of problems in building or adding on to facilities in the community. He thought that was something that he could add his expertise to.

He was born in Brooklyn and is a graduate of Cooper Union, Mechanical Engineering. He has his own business called Sonics and manufacture ultrasonic equipment. They retrofitted four industrial buildings in Danbury, four outside of Philadelphia, one in Switzerland and one in Newtown. He has experience in relatively large building projects

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and he thinks he could add a lot of value to the Committee. Ms. Weinstein said she spoke to members of the committee and they are excited to have him formally on board.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Robert Soloff to the Building Committee to fill the vacancy (Raisa Kendall) for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Ongoing updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- Ms. Weinstein said Margaret Wirtenberg shared with her that NU has put forward 30 million dollars towards reparations for customers who had been without power for a week or more. Ms. Weinstein said she didn't know how she felt about this because she would rather have the 30 million dollars go towards maintenance so that we don't have the power outages again. When we get the information as to how homeowner can apply for that we will put it on the website and have it circulating on the TV channel

Ticker File, Discuss as updated

Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry

No new news.

At 8:15pm Mr. Muller made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 12/14/11