

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
February 6, 2014

**Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents. Mr. Tracey was absent.**

**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**

**Discussion regarding revaluation update-** Ken Whitman said revaluations on real property are required by law every 5 years. Motor vehicles and business personal property are revalued every year. The process began one year ago and they sent RFP's to all the revaluation companies that were certified to do revals in Connecticut. Mr. Whitman went through the process as to how they came up with the values. The next step is the appeals process to the Board of Assessment Appeals. The grand list numbers will be finalized after the Board of Assessment Appeals process which will be completed in early April and then we will have a solid number that we can use for the Board of Finance to set the mill rate. Attached to the minutes is a 2013 Grand List Revaluation Overview.

Ms. Weinstein said that she wants be sure that people realize that they are going to see a mill rate increase in our budget projections but it doesn't necessarily mean that individual homeowner taxes are going to go up by that many mills. This is because their home value went down and we have to increase the mill rate to compensate for that. A reval is revenue neutral to the Town.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Harriette Heller to fill the vacancy (Sherry Pallay) on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2015.**

Harriette said that she is a real book lover and envisions a library to be the hub of culture in a Town. Harriette has spoken to the Library Director and she is ready to join in with all the hard work ahead. Mr. Muller moved to appoint Harriette Heller to fill the vacancy on the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Rob Nordlinger to fill the vacancy (Terry Castellano) on the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2014.**

Rob said he has been a resident for four years and is a former investment banker. At JP Morgan there was mandatory course work every year related to ethics. Mr. Muller moved to appoint Rob Nordlinger to fill the vacancy on the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Lachat Farm- Ellen McCormick, Chris Allan, Cory Attra-** Chris Allan from Landtech went over phase 1 of the Lachat farm which they would like to get started in the spring. Establishing 50 community garden plots that will be open to the public is the priority. Each plot will be 4' x 16' with 3' space between them. They will provide water service lines with irrigation to the plots. They are

proposing putting a deer fence up around the production gardens and parking areas for both the buildings and the community garden area. There is a large parking area that would serve the community garden with a total of 23 spaces including one handicap spot. This would all be gravel parking. Ms. Weinstein asked if that would be enough spaces. Ellen said that the Westport Town Farm, on the busiest time might have 20 cars and that's for 100 plots. They are exploring more spaces in phase 2.

Ellen said that they want the front section to be really beautiful so that when the neighbors drive by they are going to see a thing of beauty. The community gardens will be out of view from the road and so is the proposed hoop house. They are also proposing two 10' wide wetland bridge crossings.

Ms. Weinstein asked if there was any thought about what they were going to do with the garage apartment. Ellen said not in this particular phase. Carol said until the house is livable the garage apartment could serve as resident for a farmer. Ms. Weinstein said that we will have to figure out how we will manage the plots.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to submit an 8-24 referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission and submit an application to the Conservation Commission for the Lachat property. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

**Discussion/decision regarding MOU with the Weston Volunteer Fire Department.**

Ms. Weinstein said the MOU came about with conversations that she had with Craig Cohen, President of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and John Weingarten, President of Weston EMS along with Jerry Sargent who was the chair on the Board of Finance and now Steve Ezzes in who is the current chair on the Board of Finance. What they wanted to do is try to memorialize an agreement with the fire department regarding Capital Budget items given the fact that they received the Vitale bequest resolve some health insurance issues and the general financial arrangement between WVFD and the Town.

The Town agrees to cover the cost of repair for Capital items and major equipment for the fire department. Secondly the WVFD agrees to cover the cost of Capital items totaling approximately \$600,000 for the next two years. Once they reach the \$600,000 figure then we go back to our original agreement of accepting capital item requests. Thirdly they will submit three years of actual expenses for the Town Budget. The fourth item refers to their insurance. They have agreed to pay a 2% increase for the next three years. We can open this up for negotiation if mutually agreed upon if the annual premium cost for the Town are 15% or greater. Item five essentially the Town reserves the right to change its carrier and they would talk to them as they go through that process. Item six is with regard to their point system. They have agreed to change the point requirement to raise it by 25% for all categories. When the plan was first instituted, the intent was not so that anyone who wanted insurance would automatically get 100% of what we were offering. Both WVFD and EMS have agreed to do this over a three year period.

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Item seven: The Town agrees to establish a reserve account for unspent budgeted health insurance dollars for the department. It can be used to put additional members above the current allotted numbers or to help offset any premium increases.

Finally the WVFD agrees to cover the cost for repair, maintenance and capital projects associated with Station 2 Fire House.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to execute the MOU between the Town of Weston and the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, pending approval by the Board of Finance. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

**Request for property tax refunds:**

<b>Eric Weitz</b>	<b>\$17.15</b>
<b>Bruce Bartley</b>	<b>\$401.56</b>
<b>Mercedes-Benz Fin. Ser.</b>	<b>\$784.66</b>
<b>Chase Auto Finance Corp.</b>	<b>\$231.23</b>
<b>Nissan Infiniti-LT</b>	<b><u>\$145.33</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,588.93</b>

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,588.93 as listed on the February 6, 2014 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

**Open Items**

**Updates**

**First Selectmen updates-** As far as COG New Canaan is trying to get their ordinance up and running.

She took three students to Hartford for opening day. The students met the Lt. Governor and had their picture taken with State Senator.

The Facilities Committee of the Board of Education has determined that they will not bring forward any options to the full board that involves having any sort of Town departments in the schools. She feels that this is short sighted to not go through the risk assessment first and determine what our risk would be, and if there is a way to mitigate that risk.

Ms. Weinstein would like the Facilities Committee to take a look at East House for the seniors which would afford the seniors additional space. It would give the use of a kitchen and large room and would give private parking off of the Town Hall and get the seniors off of the school complex. In exchange we can talk about renovations that might be necessary to the South House cafeteria to make that work. She feels it is unfair to take any conversation off the table for the seniors.

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

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**Approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting, the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 7, 2014 and the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 16, 2014.** Mr. Muller moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting, the Special Board of meeting of January 7, 2014 and the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 16, 2014. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

At 8:38pm Mr. Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 2/24/14