

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

April 15, 2010

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

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- Gil Sanborn lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Laura Lustig as Weston's representative to the Southwest Regional Mental Health Board for a term to expire May 1, 2012. Ms. Lustig was unable to attend this meeting. She will be at the May 19th meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding establishing a Community Covenant with the US Army- Gil Sanborn- Mr. Sanborn said that he was a seventeen year resident of Weston and is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Connecticut. He is here tonight to talk to the Board about having an event in Weston which would be a Community Covenant Event defined by Secretary Gerran in 2008, where he began a program for communities to align themselves with members of the military. It was a pledge of support that started out with the Army and spread out to all branches of the service.

Communities could craft their event in ways to recognizing specific units that they were supporting and also to present opportunities for the general public to get involved. When Mr. Sanborn was appointed in 2008 as the Civilian Aide, the Secretary came up to him at the Pentagon and told him that he had heard and been briefed on the support that Weston had provided to the Second Brigade Combat Unit through the course of a very tough deployment.

The purpose of the covenant, and the way that he suggests that it be designed, would be for an afternoon event where JB Burton, who was the Commanding Officer of that Brigade, comes in and celebrates the support that Weston provided. He said he would like to add a twenty- five minute documentary called "The Surge", which describes what happened in Baghdad and what the change in strategy accomplished in order to really turn the tide of what was a losing battle. It is an opportunity for people to understand what went on, what the strategy was, and what the impact was of units like the Second Brigade.

Ms. Weinstein said she called Congressman Himes' office to see if he knew about "The Surge" and he said that the movie is completely apolitical and essentially just talks about what Mr. Sanborn said. Mr. Himes' office said that he is supportive of these community

covenants. Mr. Muller asked about age appropriateness. Mr. Sanborn said he needs to go back and look at that. Mr. Sanborn said for signing the covenant he would like to get the Board of Selectmen, School Superintendent, the head of Kiwanis, Girl Scouts etc.

Mr. Muller asked if there was any more to the covenant, other than a symbolic statement of support. Mr. Sanborn said no, he would like to provide some ideas and get people's input into it. He said at the event he would like to provide opportunities if people want to adopt a platoon for instance, and he is going to focus it on the Connecticut National Guard. There is a unit out of New Haven in Afghanistan and they just took five casualties last week. They called to ask how to get more support because of moral issues etc.

Mr. Sanborn said that Colonel JB Burton will be available on Sunday May 23 in the early afternoon and the High School Auditorium is available.

Discussion/decision regarding setting a date to hold a community meeting to discuss the referendum vote. Ms. Weinstein said she felt it was important to hold a community meeting to get people's thoughts on the referendum process. They are doing an exit pole survey that she worked on with the registrars and she heard that they were being filled out. They do want to hear from people because hopefully we will go into charter review this summer or the fall.

Mr. Gilbert said that he read the charter and that it appeared that we need to take another step. He said that the vote that is being taken tonight is advisory. Ms. Weinstein said that they [Ms. Weinstein, Attorney Pat Sullivan and Moderator Susan Moch] discussed this and we actually voted on the total budgets at the ATBM pending the vote tonight. If the votes taken at the ATBM are confirmed, then that was the final vote on the Budget. If not, then we would have to do the entire process all over again.

Mr. Muller made a motion to call a Special Community Meeting to discuss the referendum vote and voting process on May 6, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Valley Forge Bridge Contract- Mr. Landry said in January the board voted to award the low bid for construction of the bridge to Guerrera Construction Co. We sent a letter of intent to award and it took from that time until now for the contract to be worked out.

Mr. Muller made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign a Contract and Special Provisions for the replacement of the Valley Forge Road Bridge over the Saugatuck River. Bridge No. 046962 in the Town of Weston Connecticut. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Landry said that the Board had voted to award the contract for oversight of the construction project to the McGuire Group which is the firm that designed the bridge. We did that after getting authorization from the DOT to hire them. He later got a phone call

from the DOT saying that they were not going to allow us to use the McGuire Group because they had some issues about how they inspected I-84.

Through a series of conversations over many weeks, the DOT decided that they would oversee the project. Mr. Landry said that the DOT has been active in the process. Eventually the Board will take a vote to un-award the contract with McGuire. They have had many conversations with McGuire and they are not going to sue us or the State for breach of contract. McGuire Group still has a 7.5 million dollar contract with the State for environmental services.

Open Items

Ongoing update

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- Ms. Weinstein said that we found out this week that our fire house did not get a grant. We will be applying for a grant in the next two months along with Wilton and potentially Redding and Ridgefield to look into the potential of regionalizing the communication center.

Tickler file, discuss as updated

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

Lachat- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Fuel Cell- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Discussion/ approval of the minutes of the Special Joint Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of March 2, 2010. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting dated March 2, 2010. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting-

Mr. Muller made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion/decision regarding changing the day of the second meeting in the month of May. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion unanimously.

Mr. Muller wanted the move the meeting of May 20th to May 19th. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to move the Selectmen's meeting dated for May 20, to Wednesday May 19. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion/decision regarding scheduling a joint public hearing with Planning and Zoning. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Ms. Weinstein said that she and Mr. Grozinger have been talking about the Town Plan which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen to look at in May. One of the options that they have is to hold a public hearing to hear what the public has to say about the plan. Planning and Zoning will be setting up two public hearings. Ms. Weinstein said that it did not make sense to have three public hearing so she thought that we would set up a joint public hearing so that they can all hear public input together. Planning and Zoning will be holding a public hearing on the adoption of the Town Plan in June but they were trying to solicit some input prior to that date.

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to set the joint meeting between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Selectmen in order to obtain public comment on the Town Plan be scheduled for Monday May 10, 2010 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Muller made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion of a potential Town ordinance/rule regarding distribution of bulky materials. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Muller said that the City of Stamford put forth an ordinance prohibiting the unsolicited distribution of bulky material which is phone books. With all the different companies distributing phone books they pile up, they are a safety issue, a recycling issue and he would like to ask that we consider whether Weston should do the same as Stamford. What it does, is when something is distributed, you have the ability to opt out. Mr. Muller said that he would be willing to take this on and will look into how to get this done.

At 8:15pm Mr. Muller made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session- Update on grievance by Weston Highway Employees and Dispatchers on “Day of Mourning”.- Tom Landry

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 8:17 pm in the First Selectman’s Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Gilbert present. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Landry.

DISCUSSION: The meeting was called to update the Board on the April 9 hearing with the AFSCME bargaining units and State Hearing Officer Santana regarding the unfair labor practice charge filed by AFSCME in regard to the Board’s decision on the Day of Mourning complaint. Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Landry attended the hearing, and relayed to the Board the offers of settlement which were discussed. Ultimately, the Board took no vote on the matter, leaving its previous decision not to award a paid day off to stand unrevised.

ADJOURN: At 8:41 pm, a motion (DM, DG second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

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ADJOURN: At 8:42 pm, a motion to adjourn the meeting (DG, DM second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 5/6/10