

Board of Selectmen's meeting
May 2, 2013

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance-

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Sally Korsh to fill the vacancy (Joseph Limone) on Planning and Zoning for a term to expire November 12, 2013. Sally said that she passed the bar in 1984 and practiced in Los Angeles. She moved to Weston in 1993 and is currently licensed but not practicing law. She has attended a couple of Planning and Zoning meetings and would like to be on the Commission. Mr. Muller moved to approve the appointment of Sally Korsh to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire November 12, 2013. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to sign a contract between Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects and Engineers, PC and the Town of Weston for Weston High School doors and windows. Allen Swerdlowe said that this contract is for a feasibility study. They interviewed four firms and narrowed it down to two. They spoke to their principals at their projects and they came away extremely satisfied with Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson (KG&D).

Ms. Weinstein said that she knows that we have already paid Kaestle Boos and we had a contract for them to do this work. She asked if this was the same work that Kaestle Boos was supposed to do or was this building on to what Kaestle Boos had already done. Mr. Swerdlowe said that KG&D are charged with reviewing that work. If they discover that some of the work was faulty they will have that work redone. He said we are going to make the money back up in contracting by having better contract documents from a more qualified architect which will give us the ability to get a better bid.

Mr. Swerdlowe went through the documents which are attached to the minutes. The cost for the feasibility study is \$13,800.

Ms. Weinstein said if we were to approve this contract we would have about \$918,000 to do the project. She wants to make sure that the company doing the project understands that is what the budget is.

After some discussion Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract between Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects and Engineers, PC and the Town of Weston for the Weston High School doors and windows project. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion regarding authorizing the First Selectman to sign an agreement between Erskine, Middleleer Associates LLC, Landscape Architecture and the Town of Weston for the Lachat Property. Tabled until the next meeting

Update regarding road improvements on Old Mill Road with regard to traffic. Chief Troxell passed out a study to the Selectmen. He said since Cobbs Mill Inn will serve breakfast in the morning, they wanted to reassess the traffic volume in the morning coming from Georgetown Road going into Wilton.

Compared to the last study that was done, traffic volume are the same but traffic speeds are lower based on their response and presence up there. They have done more motor vehicle stops than they had done in previous years. The last motor vehicle accident they have had there was on 9/18/2012. Previously, they had about 10 accidents the previous year.

Ms. Weinstein asked if 15 mph speed limit was realistic. Chief Troxell said based on his knowledge and experience, 15 mph is an unrealistic speed limit to have people abide by on any road. Since the trees have been cut down it has created a safer passage for vehicles because a lot of the accidents are side swipes, mirrors hitting each other, people being forced off the road and hitting trees that were close to the road.

Ms. Weinstein asked if Police Commission is recommending anything additional be done at this point. Chief Troxell said he thinks it is less treacherous and he did not think that there was a whole lot they can do with that without spending a lot more money on it. He would like to see if there are some recommendations from Town Engineer John Conte to look at drainage or see if there are portions that could be widened.

Chief Troxell said that we need to take a look at the volume coming into Old Mill Road from Georgetown Road between 6am and 10am in the morning and where it would best be suited to have a proper crosswalk from the parking lot to Cobbs Mill Inn. He asked the Selectmen to allow him to use John Conte's expertise to do a study Ms. Weinstein said that the Town Engineer is always available to him. Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Friedman owner of Cobbs Mill Inn to let Chief Troxell know prior to opening so that he can monitor the traffic flowing. Ms. Weinstein said she would report back to the Selectmen with the timing of the study.

The Board listened to comments from residents from Old Mill Road. Resident Brian Jaworoski said the Police Commission approved a motion during a meeting last year to improve a safety zone and public works was going to install it. Ms. Weinstein said she knew nothing about it but would meet with the chief and figure out what the motion was and what the improvements were supposed to be. Chief Troxell said it was supposed to be painted crosswalks and some "stop for pedestrian signs" but now that Cobbs Mill Inn will be opened in the morning and evening, it needs to be looked at again. Ms. Weinstein said we need to figure out the timing and she will report back at the next meeting.

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Mr. Tracey asked for an explanation as to why the work did not get done. Chief Troxell said he was not in charge of public works. Beth Gralnick said that they made the request to the public works department. Mr. Tracey asked what was requested. Chief Troxell said he requests things, and it's not the first time that he has requested things and things don't go up immediately. Ms. Weinstein asked if they had that in writing so she could follow-up with her employees. Mr. Tracey said he would like to see the written request. Chief Troxell said he could find it. Mr. Tracey said by the next meeting we should have an analysis as to why this happened.

Discussion/decision regarding a request from the Police Commission to hire attorney Kevin Roy of Shipman and Goodwin to represent the Town in the upcoming police union collective bargaining negotiations. Beth Gralnick said that the Police Commission and Police Union are optimistic that they can get the contract negotiated without an attorney. The past 3 contracts they have used an Attorney from Shipman and Goodwin and last time it was Kevin Roy. If they cannot reach an agreement without attorneys the Police Commission is requesting that they hire Kevin Roy to negotiate for them.

Ms. Weinstein said that she would like to sit down with their negotiating team prior to their first session so that she knows what their starting point is since she is the one who has to sign the contract.

Mr. Muller moved that we authorize the Police Commission to retain attorney Kevin Roy of Shipman and Goodwin at a rate of up to \$300 an hour up to a limit of \$7,000. Prior to the start of negotiations the Police Commission subcommittee shall meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss expectations. Should the Police Commission and the Police Union reach an impasse, the Police Commission subcommittee will be expected to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss next steps. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the proposed changes to the Firearms ordinance. Ms. Weinstein said at the last meeting she had proposed eliminating the residential target practice based on conversations that she had with the Police Chief that not once since he's been working here did anyone ever apply for a permit for residential target practice. There was concern regarding liability if we did allow it and there was a stray bullet.

Mr. Tracey said he reviewed and compared the new laws put in place by the State of Connecticut and there is nothing inconsistent with the new laws. He said we are simple resolving that it is an important thing to do and not imposing any requirements. After going through some of the wording in the ordinance it was decided that Mr. Tracey would work on the language and we would set a public hearing.

Mr. Tracey moved that they schedule a Public Hearing for June 10th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to solicit public comment regarding the proposed changes to the Firearms Ordinance. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion/decision regarding an ordinance to adopt Part 1, Ordinances, of the Code and to enact certain changes made during the codification process.

Ms. Weinstein said that in the Code Book there are two different sections, the Weston Code and the Regulations. According to State Statute, we have to approve an ordinance that approves the ordinance changes. That process involves a public hearing.

Mr. Muller moved that they schedule a Public Hearing on June 10th at 7:15pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to solicit comment on accepting the amended Weston Town Code. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to sign an agreement with Proact, Inc. Service Agreement. Ms. Weinstein said ProAct is an organization that offers a discount drug program to all residents regardless of whether or not they have insurance. They also cover contact lenses, Lasiks eye surgery, hearing aids and there is no income requirement. Mr. Landry said that this program also covers pet drugs. The program is through CCM and there is no cost to the municipality or the resident. Charlene Hillman in Social Services will be administrating the program.

Mr. Muller asked if an individual already has insurance is it worth it or could participation in this program jeopardize any coverage they may have elsewhere. Ms. Weinstein said that it is up to the individual resident to determine. Mr. Muller said that when this is launched that it should be made clear that before you participate if you are covered by an insurance program it is your responsibility to insure that this does not jeopardize your insurance coverage.

Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement with ProAct in the form that is before them. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding reformulating the Charter Revision Committee to amend the Charter. At the ATBM, it was realized that there were some ambiguities in the new charter that needs to be addressed. One has to do with the quorum requirement and how we handle votes if there is not a quorum present. The other issue is what is the best way to facilitate passing the Annual Town Budget. Now that we are living with the Charter, we other concerns have surfaced, such as having to post advertisements for Animal Control Officer and Tax Assessor. They are Town employees that are in union positions and shouldn't be advertised.

Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Tracey if the 6 months between now and the next election was time frame enough if we reconstituted the Charter Commission that we had in place. Mr. Tracey said he agreed and he had no doubt they could get this done in short order. However what we do need to look at is that there is a limit on the number of elected officials that you can have on the Commission. This will be back on the next agenda.

Discussion regarding the Personnel Policy Handbook- After some discussion the Selectmen decided to have a working session with Tom Landry at a later date.

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Request for property tax refunds

Robert L. Lechich	\$6,504.62
Nancy Mehos	\$1,421.99
Andrew Wittenstein	\$90.80
Nissan Infiniti LT	<u>\$291.91</u>
Total	\$8,309.32

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$8,309.32 as listed on the May 2nd Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- We are going to be receiving a grant for \$4,333 from the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. Dierdre Doran chairman on the Sustainability Committee and Ms. Weinstein have been working on this. After some thought they have decided to use the money toward the creation of the Lachat Master Plan and gardening in plots with that.

Mike Ferullo is in the process of going through what we need to do to submit for the COPS grant which would apply to the SRO for three years. They will pay a portion of the salary and benefits for the first three years and after that we have to keep them on for a certain number of years after that.

We are waiting to hear on the Main Street Investment grant. They don't have the awardees yet.

At this point it looks like we will get \$100,000 more than last year in State aid.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting. Ms. Weinstein moved to add a discussion regarding the Lachat property. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Carol Baldwin said they would like to use some of the money that Friends of Lachat raised to fix the house. Bob Hatch made a list of what the order of repairs should be and they want to start at the rear addition. There was discussion about a bathroom that was handicap accessible that you access from the inside and outside of the building.

Ms. Weinstein said when she looks at the list of work that has to be done she would not do any interior work. If we spend additional money on the roof in doing the back portion does that button up the house and then should we stop work until the Friends of Lachat raises the rest of the money.

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Mr. Muller said what he would like to see is what you need to do to get the house to a point where it is structurally sound. Mr. Hatch said that the number that they came up with to do the above state work was in the vicinity of \$125,000. This doesn't have to be done as one contract.

Ms. Weinstein said that we need to have a public meeting to determine whether they want to keep the back portion and the benefit for keeping it, talk about the porch and have a conversation of what the house is going to be used for.

Mr. Hatch suggested that they redo the drawings. If they had biddable drawings then they can send it out for bids or he can get one or two contractors to give them prices in phases. Then they can have hard numbers to work with.

Mr. Tracey asked when we would have the Town meeting. Ms. Weinstein said that the Lachat Committee will have the master plan shortly after the next meeting. At the next Selectmen's meeting we will get a chance to view the master plan.

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of April 4, 2013.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the April 4th 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: At 10:24pm Mr. Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 05/16/13