

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

**May 19, 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-** Nina Daniel leads 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 gave a brief description of her background and why she wanted to serve on this Board. Mr. Muller made a motion to appoint Laura Lustig as Weston's representative to the Southwest Regional Mental Health Board for a term to expire May 1, 2012. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/ decision regarding the appointment of Jeffrey Tallman as a regular member on Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy (Carolyn Armbrust-Mulcahey) for a term to expire November 15, 2011.** Mr. Tallman is currently an alternate member on ZBA. Mr. Tallman gave a brief description of his background. He has been in the land business for a long time and has a full understanding of the process. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to appoint Jeffery Tallman as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire November 15, 2011 to fill the vacancy of Carolyn Armbrust-Mulcahey. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding a request of \$60,000 from the Youth Services Special Revenue Fund to support the funding of a school Social Service Worker position for 2010/2011 school year.-** Ms. Pernice gave some background as to why she felt a social worker was necessary in the schools and some history on Kids-in-Crisis and how they functioned. All of the districts in our DRG have a social worker and we do not.

Mr. Gilbert was opposed to taking the money out of the Youth Services Special Revenue Fund to support the Social Worker position. He said there should be a wall between municipal expenses and Board of Education expenses.

Both Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Muller spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Weinstein said that this was a one time only transition year incentive for them to hire a Social Worker to help offset some of the expenses.

Mr. Bliss sent a letter speaking against this request. The letter is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Machson spoke against using money from the fund and said that it was inappropriate for the Board of Selectmen to be making a decision that the Board of Education should be making.

Mr. Muller made a motion to allocate \$60,000 from the Youth Services Special Reserve Fund to support the funding of school Social Service Worker position for the 2010/2011 school year. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed Mr. Muller and Ms. Weinstein yes, Mr. Gilbert no. Ms. Weinstein said that they will have to bring this to the Board of Finance.

**Discussion regarding the Board of Selectmen/Cemetery Committee sites walked.** Hal Mathews, Pamela Bochinski, Stewart Pearl and Benjamin Hume were in attendance.

Jarvis- All three Selectmen had concerns about the size of the Jarvis lot and potential development for the long term.

Moore- While a beautiful site, the soil analysis presented by John Conte, Town Engineer, showed a high water table at a depth of 20 inches. This was confirmed anecdotally by neighbors.

Fromson-Strassler – There are potentially two or three acres that are nice and level that could be utilized for a cemetery. Ms. Weinstein said that in the Planning and Zoning Plan of Conservation and Development, there was the suggestion that the site could potentially be used for commercial development, which would not preclude use for the cemetery.

Ms. Weinstein said they have not seen development costs for the property or operating costs. The cemetery committee is waiting to receive something back from the [landscape] designer which should include development costs per acre and design costs. They are also waiting for a report from Willow Brook and they will bring those things to a meeting in late June. Ms. Weinstein did ask that they look into finding another route into the property rather than having to use Upper Parish Road since it is a private lane.

Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Muller asked the committee to focus their efforts on the Fromson-Strassler property, as the cemetery committee has requested guidance from the Board of Selectmen on where to focus their efforts.

**Discussion/decision regarding requesting funds from the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund for publication and distribution of the First Weston Senior Services and Resource Directory. - Helen deKeijzer.** Ms. Weinstein asked how much it would cost for publication and distribution of the directory. Ms. deKeijzer said she is asking for \$6,500 as an approved amount, not to exceed. They will make 1500 directories and mail about 1135. The commission is planning on putting it on the website and updating that once a year. They do not know how often they will publish the directory, maybe every five years.

Mr. Muller made a motion to allocate \$6,500 from the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund for publication and distribution of the excellent and first Weston Senior Services and Resource Directory. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously. All members of the Board expressed their admiration of the work done in preparing the Directory.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Larry Cass and Michael O'Brien to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012.**

Both Larry Cass and Michael O'Brien have served on the Insurance Advisory Committee since it was formed. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to reappoint Larry Cass and Michael O'Brien to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Insurance Advisory Committee recommendation for health insurance carrier for FY 2010-11- Michael O'Brien.** Mr. O'Brien summarized the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee which are as follows.

1. Place FY 2010-11 Health Insurance coverage for Town Hall Employees and Volunteer Fire Department with Anthem
2. Continue funding employee HSA accounts at current levels of \$1,150/\$2,300
3. Institute an overlay Health Reimbursement Account to the deductible limit for employees.
4. Continue to seek increased employee contribution rates in the negotiations process.
5. Review the current volunteer point award for call response system.
6. Take advantage of the reduced rate Anthem proposal for Town volunteers, by focusing the Town's subsidy on the premium rather than funding the HSA account or providing an HRA.
7. Achieve a 26.2% volunteer contribution rate in FY 2010-11 by varying the Town dollar contribution into volunteer HSA accounts.

A copy of their report is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee to change the health insurance carrier for the year 2010-11 to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding naming the playground at Bisceglie Scribner Park "Melanie's Playground, To honor the Life of Melanie Saltzman Mendelson".**

Samantha Parker said that the sign would be fully funded by the Park Project. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to name the playground at Bisceglie Scribner Park "Melanie's Playground, to honor the Life of Melanie Saltzman Mendelson". Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding reallocating \$20,000 from Revson Infield Replacement to contractual services for Revson field.** John Clevenger said that money

[from the Capital Budget] was set aside to be used for repairs to the Revson infield. The baseball community feels that is not a good use of the funds and it would be a temporary fix. They are looking to get an expert with real knowledge of athletic fields and technologies that might be available to find us a solution.

Ms. Weinstein said that Mr. Gary will come to our next meeting to give historical background as well as talk about the legal issues that have already been considered. Mr. Gilbert would like to see specifications for hiring someone who can help us with specifications for construction before we vote on it. Mr. Muller said that he did not think that you could get the experts to give you the criteria until you pay them to do it. It was decided that Parks and Rec will bring the proposal to the Selectmen to review prior to hiring.

Mr. Muller made a motion to reallocate \$20,000 for the designated Revson infield replacement to contractual services for Revson field. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$21,350 for conversion cost associated with the Town converting to the Munis in-house payroll system.** Rick Darling said he is asking for a supplemental appropriation of \$21,350 which is most of the estimated conversion cost to convert the payroll system to Munis. They are expecting slightly over a two year payback on the conversion.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation request for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$21,350 for conversion cost associated with the Town converting to Munis in-house payroll system. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation of for \$217,115. to cover the 27<sup>th</sup> payroll period .** Mr. Darling said that this is a dilemma that we face every 12 years. We pay 26 pay periods which amount to 52 weeks, 364 days so we are a day short every year. The first payroll for FY 2010-11 will occur on July 1. The Town's practice is to charge back the payroll to the time worked. That paycheck would be July 1. When you run out the weeks it will be 27 pay periods this year.

They presented to the Board of Finance a supplemental appropriation for 2009/2010 because July 1 payroll covers work in that year, which was approved. The Board of Finance has some ideas on how to address this going forward and will discuss this at future meetings. Mr. Darling said including this supplemental appropriation that the undesignated fund balance is still around 11 percent.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation from FY 2009/2010 in the amount of \$217,115 to cover the 27<sup>th</sup> payroll period. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding hiring an owner's representative for the Middle School Roof Project.** Mr. Landry said at the Building Committee meeting they spoke about hiring an owner's representative for the Middle School Roof Project. They wanted to hire Carl Goedecke who was the same person that was hired for the High School Roof project.

He would work two half days a week and would go to their committee meetings. His hourly rate is \$140 and the projected duration of the project is 16 weeks which would be approximately \$22,400.

Mr. Gilbert made a motion to hire Carl Goedecke as an owner's representative for the Middle School Roof Project for a maximum amount of \$22,400. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion regarding the Selectmen's recommendations to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.** The Selectmen when through the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development in detail. The Selectmen will submit all agreed upon changes in one document to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Muller made a motion to conditionally accept the draft Town of Weston 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development with conditions as outlined in the document. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A copy of the marked up Plan of Conservation and Development is attached to the minutes.

### **Open Items**

#### **Ongoing update**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** No new news

**Booster Barn-** Has power, kitchen equipment and the sinks We are still waiting to hear from the DEP.

**State Legislative Update-** The CCM Legislative update was distributed. The Legislators have not voted on the Real Estate Conveyance Tax. If they do not go back in special session and vote on it, it will cost the Town close to \$120,000.

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

**Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry-**

**Discussion/approval of the April 1, 2010 Board of Selectmen's minutes, April 26 and 29, 2010 special Board of Selectmen's minutes** – Mr. Gilbert made a motion to accept the minutes of April 1, 2010 and the minutes of April 26, 2010 and the amended minutes of April 29, 2010. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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At 10:56pm 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 6/3/10