

September 24, 2012  
Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting

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-** Hal Shupack led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Presentation of proclamation to Hal Shupack** – Ms. Weinstein read a proclamation that she presented to Mr. Shupack.

**Accept the resignation of Hal Shupack from the Police Commission effective immediately.** Mr. Tracey moved to accept the resignation of Hal Shupack from the Police Commission effective immediately. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Susan Moch to fill the vacancy (Hal Shupack) on the Police Commission for a term to expire November 12, 2013.** Susan Moch said she has been a resident for over 19 years. She is an attorney and her legal career started in the State's Attorney's Office in Florida as an intern and then in the State of Connecticut. She has kept involvement in the criminal justice system since leaving the State's Attorney's Office as a defense attorney. She's worked with police departments as diverse as Bridgeport, Stamford, and New Canaan and all over the Southern part of Connecticut. She thinks that the Police Commission is place where she could really serve Weston with her knowledge of the community and the various laws that affect the community.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Susan Moch to the Police Commission for a term to expire November 12, 2013. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Accept the resignation of Terry Castellano from the Board of Ethics effective immediately.** Mr. Tracey moved to accept the resignation of Terry Castellano from the Board of Ethics effective immediately. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Accept the resignation of Nancy Hammerslough from the Commission for Aging effective immediately.** Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation of Nancy Hammerslough from the Commission for Aging effective immediately. Mt. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Accept the resignation of Ellen Mason from the Library Board effective immediately.** Mr. Tracey moved to accept the resignation of Nancy Hammerslough from

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the Commission for Aging effective immediately. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Accept the resignation of David Rosenberg from the Conservation Commission effective immediately.** Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation of David Rosenberg from the Conservation Commission effective immediately. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion regarding CL&P's storm response-** Ms. Weinstein said that this was not a major storm and Weston seemed to have the highest percentage of power outages again. She did not feel that we got the level of service that we should have. She asked Attorney General George Jepson about suing CL&P, and she has been having conversations with his staff, who asked for a write up of the events. They said we probably cannot sue them because they are regulated under PURA, but they would try to help us take the next steps.

There were two major issues in Weston. . The first occurred when power went out on Godfrey Road, taking out 500 customers, but more importantly, that is where our emergency cell tower equipment is located. We reported it to CL&P at approximately 6:15pm and we did not get power restored until the next day at 11:30am. We gave the power company one priority location and we shouldn't be told that you have one crew for your Town, as does every municipality. We later found out that power was restored to the surrounding communities that night.

At about 7:45pm a tree fell on Goodhill Road, taking down power lines. It blocked the road and caused a fire. From 7:45pm to almost 1:00am we had a road with electrical wires that were arcing and sparking. The following day we had a similar fire on Wildwood Lane. It took several hours for CL&P to respond to the fire. Ms. Weinstein said this is a question of safety. They are supposed to have the roads made safe first: that is the priority and we still had roads blocked 12 to 18 hour after the storm while other Towns were getting power restored. That is the issue she has and wants to address.

Mr. Muller and Mr. Tracey fully support Ms. Weinstein's decision.

**Request for property tax refunds:**

<b>Steve Lipman</b>	<b>\$11,659.31</b>
<b>Margaret J. Goodrich</b>	<b>\$7,736.84</b>
<b>Ellen Savitsky</b>	<b>\$2,337.40</b>
<b>BMW Financial Ser.</b>	<b>\$2,006.53</b>
<b>Mercedes Benz Financial Ser.</b>	<b>\$887.46</b>
<b>Porche Leasing Limited</b>	<b>\$842.53</b>
<b>Nissan Infinity- LT</b>	<b>\$590.45</b>
<b>Robert A. Morse Jr.</b>	<b>\$504.42</b>
<b>Toyota Motor Credit Corp.</b>	<b>\$335.11</b>
<b>Chase Auto Finance Corp.</b>	<b>\$277.43</b>
<b>Tammy Kelly</b>	<b>\$134.42</b>

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<b>Est. of Janet Morency</b>	<b>\$82.53</b>
<b>Kathleen Policano</b>	<b>\$39.66</b>
<b>Carol D. Shaw</b>	<b>\$24.02</b>
<b>Stephen D. Solomon</b>	<b>\$20.77</b>
<b>David Macfarlane</b>	<b>\$7.19</b>
<b>Amy Chadwick</b>	<b>\$2.98</b>
<b>John Baron</b>	<b>\$8,635.07</b>
<b>Carl Nohre</b>	<b>\$7,172.37</b>
<b>T.D. Auto Finance</b>	<b>\$1,483.40</b>
<b>BMW Financial Services</b>	<b>\$1,466.69</b>
<b>Sharon Furbee</b>	<b>\$136.48</b>
<b>Alexander Spitzer</b>	<b>\$36.11</b>
<b>Kevin J. Clarke</b>	<b>\$24.91</b>
<b>Frederick Rosen</b>	<b>\$15.81</b>
<b>John Dorman</b>	<b><u>\$15.25</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,475.14</b>

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$46,475.14 as listed on the September 24, Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding adopting a resolution in support of the 2010 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.** Ms. Weinstein said she would like to apply for the Main St. Investment Fund Grant. The purpose of the grant is to allow communities to do what they can to help economic development in their communities. She is applying for the grant to put sidewalks down School Road by Weston Center and all the way up through the Town Hall complex. The Board of Education, Schools and the Town of Weston are the two biggest employers in the Town and if we have sidewalks it will make it more accessible for us to get to Town Center and support the businesses there. It would make a safer and healthier Town, as well.

In order to show that the Town agrees with the development of sidewalks, the Board of Selectmen need to accept a portion of the 2010 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Town will have to pay the soft costs for a person to be on hand while the construction is going on to deal with traffic monitoring. The grant will pay for everything else, assuming they fund the full amount that we are asking for.

Mr. Muller asked about us looking at sidewalks as a public health issue as well. The Town is also working on a "Safe Routes to School" grant. SWRPA has agreed to act as the agent to help us do the first step. Dr. Palmer was going to approach the Wellness Committee to see if they wanted to spearhead it.

Mr. Muller asked why there was a requirement that certain aspects of the Plan for Conservation and Development be incorporated into the application. Ms. Kulikowski said a Town Commercial Center Plan is required by State Statute. The Town does not have

this. Because it's a new funding program they are taking what they call a strong chapter of the Plan of Conservation and Development as a substitute to that plan. We did not have time for the Board of Selectmen to do a whole planning process on the Town Center. The grant requires a planning document adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Tracey said that the portion of the plan that we are adopting deserves more attention than it has gotten. This portion of the plan involves a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to set-up a committee to study development of the Weston Town Center and specifically recommends discussion of development on the other side of Route 57 which would bring in a significant amount of rental revenue because the Town owns the property. In adopting this, he expects that we will adopt such a committee and talk about it. Given that we have among the highest per capita tax rate in Fairfield County he thinks it's time to start talking about this.

Mr. Tracey moved to adopt a resolution to adopt two sections of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development prepared by Weston Planning and Zoning Commission, dated July 1, 2010. Those two sections are "the Center of Weston" pages 12 through 16 of the Plan, and "Pedestrian Facilities," page 29 of the Plan. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding authorization to submit an application to the State of Connecticut's Main Street Investment Fund Program for sidewalks.** Mr. Muller moved to adopt a resolution to authorize the First Selectman to submit, sign and administer the project on behalf of the Town of Weston for the funding application for the Weston Center Sidewalks project under the Main Street Investment Fund Program referenced in Section 78 and 79 of the Public Act 11-1: Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Open Items**

### **Updates**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** Other than what was already discussed, there is no new news.

**Regionalization-** Ms. Weinstein said she met with Chief Troxell, Sgt. Daubert, Chief Pokorny as well as our counterparts in Wilton to discuss regionalization. A E-911 PSAP consolidations sub-committee had been formed to look at regionalizing Communications Centers. This committee is saying that they are no longer going to offer us a financial incentive to join together. They are now saying that if your town has less than 5,000 911 calls, you will no longer be able to have that PSAP operation in you communication center. If you don't make the decision to voluntarily consolidate, the State will do it for you. Going with a Town that is contiguous to us is important. She wants to make sure that whatever Town we go with, is a Town that our police officers and our Fire Department already work cooperatively with. We have an excellent

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relationship with the Town of Wilton so it makes sense to start the conversations with them.

The group discussed many issues and concerns. We have to see if there is any cost savings involved, or what the cost would be to consolidate. We have to make sure that the level of service is protected if not improved. There are many the other issues such as Union issues that may come up before we see if it is a feasible option.

Mr. Tracey said it is critically important to this Town to maintain home rule. We have been talking about ways to save money and regionalize voluntarily for a long time. The analysis that he would like to be focused solely on, is whether we think it's good for our town. What the State is doing in the background is of less concern to him. He personally doesn't think they could ever force us to give up our 911 number. Ms. Weinstein said you have to have a plan B and that is always her concern. Mr. Muller said that we may come to the same conclusion as the State is forcing our hand to do, but we need to come at it independently rather than as a reaction as to what is being done.

Ms. Weinstein said they are hoping to meet again in a month.

**Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of September 6, 2012.** Mr. Muller moved to approve the minutes of the September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously

At 8:30pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 10/04/12