

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
October 3, 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 Catherine L. Minter LMSW on the Commission for Children and Youth to fill a vacancy for a term to expire December 31, 2014-** Cathy said she has lived in Town for 26 years and her daughter has gone through the school system. She is a licensed social worker in the State of New York. The youth services department was very helpful to her in providing advice through parenting, dealing with crises that came up in the schools and overall support for the kids in the community. Now that she has some time, she would like to give back to them.

Mr. Muller moved to appoint Catherine Minter to fill the vacancy on the commission for Children and Youth for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Joshua M. Eudowe as Weston's representative on the Southwest Regional Mental Health Board for a term to expire October 31, 2015-** This item was tabled until the next meeting

**Discussion/decision regarding a resolution to transfer unexpended funds between projects within the appropriation and bond authorization for Capital improvements to the Weston Public Schools and the Weston Library and to close out certain projects.** Rick Darling said the reason that we doing this now is because we are going through the reimbursement project for the windows and doors. Through that process they found that in order to apply for monies above the original appropriation we need to have a formal motion in place so that the State can get the process going on getting reimbursements over and above the original budgeted amount.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve a resolution to transfer unexpended funds between projects within the appropriation and bond authorization for Capital improvements to the Weston Public Schools and the Weston Library and to close out certain projects from 2010 bond issue as set forth in the attached. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

**Discussion/decision regarding authorizing the First Selectman to engage the Firm of Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson to complete construction documents for, door, window, HVAC & related improvements at Weston High School.** The bid for construction documents came in tonight and they are for a different area of the school

then what Town Meeting approved. The Town Meeting approved working on "Area E". Ms. Weinstein did verify with Dr. Palmer that Area E is the correct wing.

Ms. Weinstein said the other issue she has with the contract is that there is not a "time is of the essence" clause, a start date or a completion date. The other issue she needs resolved before she signs the contract is that the Board of Education must agree to cover any funds that are not collected in time to finish the project, up to the anticipated bid amount.

Ms. Weinstein said if they can get everything straightened out by the close of business tomorrow then she could sign the contract pending the signing of the MOU. Mr. Tracey said that he was fine with that as long as the schedule is amended to be realistic. She said Town Attorney has not had a chance to review this and she will not sign anything until she reviews it.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to engage the firm of Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson to complete construction documents for door, window, HVAC & related improvements at Weston High School. This motion is pending a signed MOU with the Board of Education stating that all outstanding financial obligations shall be the responsibility of the Board of Education and also subject to correction of contract documents to meet the specifications as discussed. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the consulting contract with Landtech for the Lachat Farm and Juliana Lachat Preserve- Ellen McCormick.** Ellen McCormick said after talking to landscape architects they came to the conclusion that a lot of the work that they were going to be doing involves an engineer which a landscape architect would hire anyway. They interviewed the Landtech group because of their association with the former project and have all the information that they need. Ms. Weinstein said Cory Attra who is a resident has allowed us to pick his brain and he is a consultant with Landtech as well.

Ms. Weinstein said she had Pat Sullivan Town Attorney take a look at the endowment fund to see if there were any restrictions on utilizing the fund. Pat said that since the endowment fund shall be used for the sole purpose of maintaining and/ or renovating Lachat property and buildings existing from time to time on the Lachat property, an appropriate use of those funds would be for Consulting Services in connecting with Site Improvement Plans.

Ms. Weinstein said that the other cost that we don't have right now is for an A2 survey that she thinks Planning and Zoning will require. Ellen said the consultants will be doing a time-line for them.

Mr. Tracey moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a consulting contract with Landtech after approval by the Town Attorney for consulting in relation to the site

work for the Lachat farm and to allocate up to \$12,000 of funds from the Lachat endowment for that purpose. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Open Items**

### **Updates**

**First Selectmen updates-** Our new website is going live on Monday. The format has been changed so that there is more information readily available and she's hoping that it's easier for people to navigate.

CL&P has announced that they are enhancing their outage maps. They are no longer using black. Rather than going by the percent of the community they are going by population out. For Weston, when we have the highest outage we will see orange. She will put the information on the website.

### **Potential merger with SWRPA and Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials.**

The two regions did submit a letter to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) petitioning for the merger of the 2 regions. The next day, OPM released a report saying that there were two options for this region. Option A merges the South Western Region, the Housatonic Valley and Greater Bridgeport. The second option merges the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley. They are trying to work through that process since they were told by David LeVasseur from OPM that if they voluntarily merged that they would be held harmless. The new region is going to be known as the Western Connecticut Council of Government. Once that is figured out, then we will start on the process of changing our organizational structure to a COG.

**Any business to come properly before the meeting-** Ms. Weinstein moved to add a discussion/decision regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Weston and the Board of Education. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein said the Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the conversations that she's had with Phil Schaefer, BoE Chair, and Dr. Palmer. A copy of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign an MOU with the Board of Education with regard to funding the Weston High School renovation of classrooms in the E wing including but not limited to building renovation, replacement of windows and doors and the installation of a new HVAC system. Mr. Tracey seconded. Mr. Tracey asked about signing the MOU before Ms. Weinstein left on vacation. Ms. Weinstein said she would sign the contracts and Mr. Landry would hold them and not release them until everything is signed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup> Special Board of Selectmen's meeting and the September 25<sup>th</sup> Special Board of Selectmen's meeting.** Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup> Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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At 8:12pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 11/07/13