

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 18, 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- Ms. Weinstein led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding the Charter Revision Report-Woody Bliss co-chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, said that Nina Daniel, John Stripp and he have continuing concerns with the level of a quorum that is in the report. The reason is if the quorum is too high, people will not show up at the meeting and eventually people will say that there is no point in coming. Someone might decide to eliminate the ATBM. They think that would be a mistake because the only vote people would have, would be at the referendum.

Ms. Weinstein said that the board wishes it was a unanimous vote but it was not. She feels it is important to uphold the majority vote. The only issue the Board had when the report was sent back to the Commission for final review was the date to the ballot, since it needed to be changed to the following November.

Nina said there is another issue which is the issue of the Gilson case. They were not given the opportunity to read it until after the next to the last meeting. Depending on how you interpret it, you could say that the process was flawed in their deliberations by not having access to that particular document. Nina said she feels that we have legal exposure.

Ms. Weinstein asked the members of the Commission that voted in the majority opinion if they were comfortable with their vote and they all said yes. Ms. Weinstein said she feels confident in the Town Attorney's opinion regarding the lack of relevance of the Gilson case. She asked Mr. Tracey, as an attorney, what he felt about the opinion. He supported it and came up with the same conclusion as did Ken Edgar. Mr. Tracey said he wished the process had been better, but he doesn't think it actually affected anything. He is more worried now about whether we have a consensus in the community about what the quorum should or shouldn't be.

Mr. Muller moved to accept the amendments to the final Charter report as submitted by the Charter Revision Commission and place it on the ballot on November 4, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded. Mr. Tracey said he is voting in favor of this because it's the result of the majority of the commission. He asked if we could put on the November 4th ballot recommending that it is accepted but also put on the ballot a referendum question to the effect of, would you prefer to have a quorum of another number or no quorum. She will talk to Town Attorney to see if we can legally do that. Mr. Muller said his preference would be to go back to the system we were using before where you decided at the ATBM

and if there are enough people who disagree then you have the referendum. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding forwarding a CGS section 8-24 request to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the installation of speed humps on the drive north of the Weston Middle School- Dr. Keating-Ms. Weinstein said that speed humps were installed on the driveway at the Middle School after she had previously had a conversation with the Superintendent and the Chief of Police with regard to waiting until they have a policy in place. She had a conversation with Town Attorney, Town Engineer and the Land-use Director who said that in order to put in speed humps, we need an 8-24 report from P&Z because it is Town owned property. Attorney Sullivan felt so strongly about the liability of the speed humps, she asked that they be removed immediately.

Joann Keating said she wasn't aware that she needed to go through the process with P&Z. She had a couple conversations with Chief Troxell and he stated to her that it was not a public road and it did not need to go through the police commission. She followed-up with an email to Bill Brady and did not receive any comment back. Because she didn't get a response from him she felt that she had gone through the process. She wasn't aware of any conversations that they might have had that she wasn't involved with. The reason why they installed portable speed bars is because they had received numerous complaints from her staff of speeding cars in that area. Their concern is for the safety of students and staff.

Dr. Keating spoke to Tracy Kulikowski, the land-use director, and asked her if she could give them the services of the Town Engineer so he could spec out what was appropriate by law. They are open to doing whatever they need to do.

Ms. Weinstein asked if there are letters from employees or grievances. Joann said she has emails that she will forward to her from the security guards, Principal and from the WTA. They started hearing about this last year during their safety meetings.

Mr. Tracey said he wanted to make sure that this is all on the premise that we are just pushing this along to make sure that we are not slowing anything down but it will come back to the Board in its final form so that they can approve it. Mr. Muller moved that the Board of Selectmen forward an 8-24 request to the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the installation of appropriate traffic calming devices or structure on the drive north of Weston Middle School. This explicitly does not constitute approval by the Board of Selectmen for installation of the traffic calming devices or structures. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Update concerning regional merger and change in regional organizational structure.

Ms. Weinstein went through a presentation because she wanted the public to understand what a COG was. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. Ms. Weinstein told the Board that she will be asking to start the ordinance process in the next couple of weeks.

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Ms. Weinstein said that they are in the process of merging with HVCO now. They sent a letter of intent to OPM but OPM has not recognized that as yet. They are meeting on Friday morning to continue the process and figure out a timeline to merge. They are hoping to get the merger complete and get everyone transition to a COG by the end of the fiscal year. If they do that they only have to file one set of paper work with the State and if not they will have to file multiple sets of paper work. She will come back to the Board at the next meeting with a timeline.

Request for property tax refunds

Chase Auto Finance Corp	\$232.02
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services	\$597.97
Toyota Motor Credit Corp	<u>\$360.01</u>
Total	\$1,190.00

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds of \$1,190.00 as listed on the November 18, 2013 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

First Selectmen updates- Ms. Weinstein said we received a grant for \$15,000 to fix the roof on the Lachat house from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Carol Baldwin wrote the grant.

We were awarded a FEMA grant from hurricane Sandy. The total eligible was \$318,000 and we are getting reimbursed 75% of that which is \$239,000 so our remaining share is a little under \$80,000. She thanked Sgt. Michael Ferullo for his hard work on getting the grant.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None

Approval of the minutes of the November 7, 2013 Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:49pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 12/19/13

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