

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 19, 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 with the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Denise Murillo as an alternate on the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2014- Denise said that she moved to Weston almost nine years ago and has a child in Weston High School. She is a real estate agent for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties. She has joined the Weston Kiwanis and does a senior lunch once a month. She did talk to Hillary Koyner, a current Board member, about the position so she does know what to expect. Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Denise Murillo as an alternate on the Board of Assessment Appeals for term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of James Jamieson to fill the vacancy on the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2015. Jim said he is an architect in Town. In his previous job in New Jersey, he became very aware of the public bid process. He was the Building Chairman for the kid's room at the Field Club and for the archives project at the Historical Society. He has lived in Weston since 1981 and he would like to protect our values and tax base. Mr. Muller moved to appoint James Jamieson to the fill the vacancy on the Building Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Rack Gleason as the Building inspector for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Rack Gleason as the Building Inspector for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of John Pokorny as the Fire Marshall for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint John Pokorny as the fire Marshall for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Larry Roberts as the Deputy Fire Marshall for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Larry Roberts a the Deputy Fire Marshall for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Mark Harper as the Animal Control officer for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Mark Harper as the Animal Control Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Margaret Wirtenberg as Weston's representative to the SWRPA for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Ms. Weinstein said that Margaret is probably one of the members there that they feel is most valuable because of her planning background and the input that she can give concerning land use, urbanization and other areas. She recommends that Margaret be reappointed. Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Margaret Wirtenberg as Weston's Representative to SWRPA for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Ellen Weyrauch to the Commission for Children and Youth for a term to expire December 31, 2016. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Ellen Weyrauch to the Commission for Children and Youth for a term to expire December 31, 2016. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Woody Bliss as a Moderator for a term to expire December 31, 2017-Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Woody Bliss as Moderator for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein added a discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Chris Kimberly as an alternate on the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2018. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kimberly said that he has been on the Historic District Commission for 10 years and he is the only one on the commission that lives in a Historic district. The last meeting that the commission had was about the size of the signs that are placed on the Onion Barn. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Chris Kimberly as an alternate on the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2018. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Naomi Bleifeld on the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2018- Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Naomi Bleifeld to the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2018. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Michiel Zegers, Cathy Minter, Theodore von Rosenvinge IV and Robert Turner to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Michiel Zegers, Cathy Minter, Theodore von Rosenvinge IV and Robert Turner to the

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 19, 2013

Conservation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Laura Smits, Peggy Anderson and Donald Gumaer to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller moved to reappoint Laura Smits, Peggy Anderson and Donald Gumaer to the Commission on Aging for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Amy Sanborn, Dennis Toner, Richard Ross, Barbara Groves and Anne Hunt to the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Amy Sanborn, Dennis Toner, Richard Ross, Barbara Groves and Anne Hunt to the Library Board for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of David Juneau, Eric Albert and Edmund Ferdinand III to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017- Ms. Weinstein thanked Bob Uzenoff who has served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for 17 years.

Mr. Muller moved to reappoint David Juneau, Eric Albert and Edmund Ferdinand III to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Valerie Mason to Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Valerie Mason to the Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Robert Lamb, Paula Savignol and John Albright to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2015- Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Robert Lamb, Paula Savignol and John Albright to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding year end operating budget account and line item transfers – Rick Darling, Finance Director. Rick Darling said the Board of Finance voted to transfer approximately \$152,000 back to the general fund balance. This was after sweeping all deficit accounts from positive line item balances in other accounts throughout the Town Budget and including debit service.

Both Health Insurance and the legal budget were favorable this year. The police and highway budgets were the areas where we saw some of the main deficits. Overall it was positive news and we had an actual surplus of about \$16,000.

Ms. Weinstein asked if we got FEMA reimbursement for that year that we were able to allocate towards the correct year. Mr. Darling said we are going to show a deficit in the audit report on the FEMA storm fund because we did not get all the reimbursements before the 60 day gap where you can credit revenue back to the old year. The general fund showed just the net cost amount to the Town, which was 25%. The 75% was moved out to the expense line in the storm fund.

Discussion/decision regarding setting a date for a Town Meeting for a land exchange between the Town of Weston and Patricia and Mitchell Beck for land along Lords Highway- Ms. Weinstein said that Planning and Zoning did issue was a favorable 8-24 report. This is a land exchange of 194 square feet which we asked the Becks to do since we have already paved their land.

Mr. Tracey moved to hold a Special Town Meeting on January 16th at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room for land exchange between the Town of Weston and Patricia and Mitchell Beck for land along Lords Highway. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

First Selectmen updates- Ms. Weinstein said she was voted to be Vice Chair of the SWPRA MPO.

COG- They have started their COG Committee meetings. The committee that was put in place to work on the merger did approve the draft by-laws.

They also started sub-committee meetings. She is serving on the HR and Finance sub-committee. It is very complicated to merge these two organizations. Town Attorney is looking at the draft ordinance.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting- None

Approval of the minutes of the November 18 and December 4, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the November 18th and December 4th Board of Selectmen's meetings as submitted. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a request from the Board of Education for a Supplemental Appropriation of \$230,000- Colleen Palmer- Dr. Palmer said that one of the areas in the budget that you plan for but it is unknown what the bottom line will be is Special Education. It is mandated by law that each student has an individualized educational plan, that is a binding contract of services and educational placement.

They have had an increase in mediations and have had more students that have needed more intensive support and just a shift in students who arrived at their door. These forces have created a financial pressure on the district. At this point in time, they have

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 19, 2013

expenditures of \$229,967 confirmed for Special Education cost that were not anticipated when they built the budget last year. There is no contingency for Special Education.

They have tried to manage their IDEA grant so that they would only spend down half of the grant the first year. The grant is about \$400,000 so they would always have the new grant of \$400,000 and the \$200,000 from the year before. They would strive to use the \$200,000 from the year before and only go \$200,000 deep into the new grant. At the end of last year, they had to dip into the \$200,000 half of the IDEA to be able to pay a \$300,000 increase that was not anticipated. They enter this year with a small amount of carryover. As they prepare the budget for next year, they will not have carryover which means that they will have to budget another \$200,000 above and beyond. What happened last year exhausted most of the small amount of safety net that they had and they find themselves in a position where they do not have the means within the accounts they have to mitigate this amount of money.

After much discussion, Dr. Palmer said that they currently have a situation not included in the budget document that may put the district at risk for another additional \$225,000 in Special Education costs this year.

Ms. Weinstein said that at this point, there is so much fluctuation that she is not willing to vote on a supplemental right now, but she is willing to commit on record to approving a supplemental strictly for the SPED budget as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year. She agrees that the SPED budget is completely separate and really a unique case from any other school item. Mr. Muller asked if there was funding issues now. Dr. Palmer said that there is no short term funding issues. Mr. Muller and Mr. Tracey agreed with Ms. Weinstein and said that they would be committed to support an appropriate request at the end of the fiscal year.

At 8:29pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 2/6/14