

Board of Selectmen Agenda
Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7:30pm
Meeting held via Conference Call

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- 1. Call to Order:** First Selectman Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:30. Also in attendance were Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Town Attorney Ira Bloom, Board of Finance Chairman Steve Ezzes, Library Director Karen Tatarka, members of the Press and Weston Residents.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Jonathan Luiz led the pledge of allegiance
- 3. Discussion/decision regarding appointing Lance Scott to the Economic Vitality Committee for a term to end June 30, 2022:** Mr. Scott explained his interest in joining. Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Lance Scott to the Economic Vitality Committee for a term to end June 30, 2022. Selectwoman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Discussion/decision regarding ATBM/Referendum process in light of the Governors Emergency Orders regarding the budget process:** Town Attorney Ira Bloom gave a summary of the Governor's executive order and stated that it is not discretionary. Mr. Luiz spoke about the schedule of meetings and deadlines. Selectman Nestor asked about logistics of voting and absentee ballots. Town Attorney Bloom said the law does not allow for absentee ballots. Mr. Luiz explained how the public could participate in a public hearing, to be held on Saturday, April 25th and that people can email, mail or leave voice messages to BOF Chair Steve Ezzes. Selectman Grozinger stated he concurs with Town Attorney Bloom, and agrees our hands are tied. BOS and BOE budgets were discussed along with further reductions to be made. Selectwoman Nestor moved to adopt the resolution entitled "RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE TOWN OF WESTON CALENDAR AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUND BUDGETS, as presented." Selectman Grozinger seconded the motion. First Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Discussion/decision to appoint Steven Ash as Deputy Fire Marshal:** Mr. Ash spoke about his volunteer and work background. Selectman Grozinger expressed his strong support for Mr. Ash's appointment. Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Steven Ash as Deputy Fire Marshal effective upon the successful completion of a criminal background check. Selectwoman Nestor seconded. Motion carried.
- 6. Discussion/decision regarding the hire of Anneliese Lomas as Part Time Library Technology Assistant effective upon successful completion of a criminal background check:** Library Director Karen Tatarka reviewed the position and the candidate's background. Selectwoman Nestor moved to appoint Anneliese Lomas as Part Time Library Technology Assistant effective upon successful completion of a criminal background check. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion/decision to establish a public hearing for the purpose of inviting public comment on proposed amendments to Chapter 179, Article VI, entitled "Tax Relief for the Elderly:"** First Selectman Spaulding and Mr. Luiz provided an update on this matter. They said the proposed budget does not incorporate any potential changes to the ordinance.
8. **Discussion/decision to establish a public hearing for the purpose of inviting public comment on: 1) The repeal of Chapter 225 of the Weston Code of Ordinances entitled "Solid Waste and Recycling Regulations;" 2) The repeal of Chapter 164 of the Weston Code of Ordinances entitled "Solid Waste;" and 3) The adoption of a proposed new Chapter 164 of the Weston Code of Ordinances entitled "Solid Waste."** First Selectman Spaulding gave the background regarding our current ordinance and necessary updates. Mr. Luiz said the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority will suggest edits.
9. **Discussion about Emergency Management Decision Making & Communication:** First Selectman Spaulding stated the Governor declared a State of Emergency, while Weston enacted its declaration. He said he has been on dozens of conference calls including calls with our Governor, homeland security, WestCOG, Fire, EMS, Town Attorney, etc. Selectman Grozinger added he thinks that everything that has been done thus far has been necessary and appropriate; however he preferred that emergency management decisions made later be ratified by the Board of Selectmen, especially considering that the Covid-19 virus will likely be with us for several more months and because the Board of Selectmen should be at the top of the chain for what happens in town. Selectwoman Nestor thanked the Emergency Management Team and asked if Jonathan could hold regular briefings with her and Selectman Grozinger. Mr. Luiz answered yes. Selectman Grozinger stated he would prefer to have some say in the decision making process. First Selectman Spaulding said some of the decisions that were made were necessary to make and feels it shouldn't be a political decision. Mr. Grozinger explained that the BOS making the decisions would be more democratic. Mr. Spaulding said, where appropriate, he will bring decisions to the BOS.
10. **Discussion/decision regarding BOS minutes approval: February 20th and March 5th, 2020:** Selectman Grozinger moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the February 20, 2020 and March 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen meetings, as presented. Selectwoman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
11. **Approval of Property Tax Refunds:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to approve property taxes totaling \$9,252.62, as presented. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
12. **First Selectman Update on Covid-19:** First Selectman Spaulding gave an update on cases in the town, Governor's executive orders, messaging and communication with the residents.
13. **Adjournment:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to adjourn at 9:13pm. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant