

Present: First Selectman Beth Heller, Deputy First Selectman Mica Cardozo, Joe Crisco, Joe Dey, David Lober and Teri Schatz.

Present for staff: Town Attorney Gerald Weiner, Finance Director and Administrative Officer Tony Genovese, Communications Director and Grants Manager Sheila McCreven and Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla.

The May 9, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by First Selectman Beth Heller at 5 p.m.

1. Woodbridge Superintendent Bob Gilbert delivered his monthly report to the Board. Enrollment is up to 854 students. The last day of school will be Tuesday June 19.
2. Fire Chief Sean Rowland requested permission from the Board to hold the annual fireworks display during the Truck of Treat event on October 31.

Mr. Crisco moved to allow the Volunteer Fire Department to use Fitzgerald Field to launch the fireworks and to close Center Road to traffic for safety reasons. Mr. Cardozo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. My First Selectman's Report this month will be in several parts -- First, for Item 3a on our agenda:

As we have concluded our review of the Public Opinion Survey results – and I will remind everyone that the presentation is available at the Town website along with a link to the meeting videos – we turn our attention now to potential 'Next Steps' for the former-CCW property.

As we have learned, public sentiment is divided but we did see some evidence in favor of potential approaches that may allow us to combine some options to offer 'something for everyone.' The key will be compromise. I believe that our community is more than capable of considering a proposal and seeing a project through to approval at referendum. I want us to address each other respectfully and with civility as we go through this process – we may not always agree with each other but we can be agreeable as we deliberate and come to decisions. Let's dedicate ourselves to trying!

I will note that one suggested potential use of the property, that many people wrote-in on the survey, and spoke with me about, was a desire for the Town to explore the possibility of a 'Solar Farm' installation. I've asked my staff to look into this further and if appropriate I will also ask the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee to be involved in that exploration. A Solar Array may be appropriate and advantageous at the former-CCW, or at other locations in Town -- so further information on that will be investigated and reported back to us at a future date.

Tonight we have proposals for the property. We will move into executive session to go over the details, pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of CT State Statute, as this will be a preliminary discussion of site selection, lease or purchase of real estate. Of course, no motions will be made and no votes will be taken in executive session. We will return to public session and if appropriate we will share further information then.

Now, I will entertain a motion to go into executive session and invite our Town Council and our Administrative Officer and Director of Finance to join us to provide information.

Teri Schatz moved to go into executive session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) to discuss draft proposals for the sale of land at the former Country Club of Woodbridge. David Lober seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Executive session began at 5:10 p.m. and ended at 6:01 p.m. Ms. Heller said that no motions were made and no votes were taken. The Board discussed three proposals: One is to purchase 10 acres for an assisted living facility; one is to purchase 40 acres for 55 and over units with a golf course, a renovated club to include a banquet hall and restaurant. The proposal also includes building a new smaller clubhouse and renovating the pool for community use. A third proposal is to build 68 homes along a 9-hole golf course and 120 attached town homes on either side of Woodfield Road with approximately two miles of walking trails.

The Board requested more information and will hold an executive session at a future meeting to further discuss the proposals.

Now, moving onto the second part of my First Selectman's Report this month, for item 3b:

As you may know, we had a very successful Farmers Forum on April 18th. In your packet, and sent out this afternoon, is a document recapping that meeting, including a summary of the presentations by Guest Speakers (which was written up and submitted to us by Andrea Urbano – my thanks to Andrea for all her work on this event as part of the citizen's group), as well as an accounting of the 'brainstorming session' where a wealth of ideas were shared on ways the Town might be able to support and promote farmers and farms in Woodbridge. There was a great deal of interest on the topic of the Town establishing an Agriculture Commission, and so I would suggest that our Board refer this to our Ordinance Committee for their review. If there is no objection, Mica as Chairman of Ordinance – please add this item to the next meeting's agenda. Later on tonight's agenda we have a report from the Ordinance Committee.

Next on my First Selectman's Report is an update on the Dog Park – item 3c.

Thank you everyone for coming out tonight to hear our update. As we discussed at our last

meeting, Town Hall staff has been working on research and fact gathering on the various location options. In the Selectman's packet tonight are the following:

The Dog Park Location Review grid – I will note that as a result of the Selectmen's review of the entire CUPOP listing of Town-owned properties, one additional parcel was identified for consideration – thank you Teri, for bringing that to our attention. So staff has done some additional "deep dive" into records here at Town Hall and tonight we have several maps of the locations under consideration – these are here as part of your packet.

Then, we have also received quite a bit of public comment emails, a list of phone calls, and also some petition pages – all of these are also provided in your packet tonight.

I want to state for the record here tonight: I remember many years ago, it must have been 2005 or 2006, former Selectman Joe Calistro was outside the polls collecting signatures for a Dog Park. I believe having a dog park for Woodbridge is long overdue, and I am proud that this Board has unanimously voted to establish a Dog Park here in Town. This is a major accomplishment in itself, as the first step. Now the decision on location must also be made by vote of the Selectmen – and it will be. I want to assure everyone that we will be acting, after we have completed our due diligence. This may be taking longer than some may wish, but we must take the proper time to make the best decision on behalf of all citizens. And we appreciate hearing from you all.

I've been told that I am being "Too Nice" – but I want to say clearly: Yes. That's me. I will continue to be nice, to everyone, and I want you to know that this will not interfere with my ability to be decisive and strong in my decision-making. That is what I was elected to do, and I want to assure everyone I will be doing that. My way.

Now, let's have some discussion by the Selectmen – I would like to hear each of us share our thoughts on these potential locations.

Board members agreed that the sites with the most potential are Fitzgerald Field and Alegi. It was also the consensus that the Board was not ready to vote on a location.

Ms. Heller asked the Selectmen: would you like to schedule a 'Field Trip' as part of our upcoming May 23rd Special Meeting to go take a tour of one or more of these potential locations? If that's desirable, we could schedule that for the first half hour or so of the meeting, say 5:00, then reconvene the meeting here at 6:00 for the discussion we had planned for next year's budget planning.

4. For my Liaison Report – here is a quick rundown of what I’ve done this month:

Our Storm Response “post mortem” meeting with UI finally took place April 24th. As I described in the Town Newsletter, we will be working to improve our response to severe weather and appreciate all the feedback from residents.

Likewise, our MicroGrid Ribbon Cutting ceremony also finally took place this past Monday. Governor Malloy and the Commissioner of DEEP Robert Klee were on hand – and we received a good deal of media coverage that reflects nicely on our Town’s commitment to the environment and to the public safety of our residents.

I have also received some additional information about the commencement of the DOT roadwork on lower Litchfield Turnpike from DOT – a letter is in your packets and will also be shared with our Economic Development Commission which is meeting tomorrow evening and will be helping to get the word out to businesses and the neighbors who may be effected by road closures as they are planned – there are no dates yet for this.

Also included in your packet is the communication we received from the Sustainable CT program informing us that we have been selected to receive at no-cost to our Town, a Community Resilience Building Workshop, which we applied for last month – so I am proud to say our application was looked on favorably. Sheila will be sharing additional information about the Sustainable CT program in her report later tonight.

Finally, I will just briefly list the other meetings and community events I took part in this past month: On 4/15 a commemoration of Yom Hashuah took place– Joe Crisco attended in my place – thank you, Joe. 4/17 I attended a Mutual Assistance meeting in Seymour – details will be shared later in the Agenda. I mentioned the Farmers Forum on 4/18, and also the Rid Litter Day celebration on Sunday 4/22 – wonderful community events. We held our Preliminary Budget Hearing 4/23 and I also attended the 4/19 BOF meeting. We had a meeting of the Animal Shelter Building committee also on 4/23. I attended the monthly SCROG meeting 4/25 and we also had our Special BOS meeting that night on the Survey Results. I attended the Human Services Volunteer Tea on 4/26 and a Ribbon Cutting at a new business in town on 4/27. Opening Day of Bethwood Baseball on 4/28 was just wonderful as always. We also had a Simulcast Committee meeting 4/30, National Day of Prayer 5/3, the annual WVFA Installation Dinner 5/5 and the Outdoor Pool Open House and Special BOS meeting on Sunday 5/6 –along with the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society event also that day at the Old South Schoolhouse.

5. Liaison reports. Board members provided updates on the boards and commissions on which they serve as liaisons.

6. Public Comment:

The following people spoke in favor of siting the dog park at Fitzgerald: Mary Beth Wormer, 11 Westward Road; Michael Broderick, 5 Old Still Road; Michelle Ditzian, 10 Timber Lane; Ramie Ackley, 20 Seymour Road; Brendan Finian, 272 Seymour Road; Bonnie Blake, 64 Beecher Road

The following people spoke against siting the dog park at Fitzgerald: Amey Marella, 184 Rimmon Road; Maria Kayne, 1891 Litchfield Turnpike; Sharon deKadt, 94 Center Road;

Noel Rodriguez, 19 Manila Avenue asked that he be considered for the opening on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission.

Paul DeCoster, 464 Amity Road, said that he attended the Farmers Forum and is happy that the Board has referred the issue of forming an agriculture commission to the Ordinance Committee.

Cheryl Lipson, 35 Brookwood Drive, spoke about the three draft proposals for the former Country Club of Woodbridge and asked about next steps for the survey.

7. Ms. Heller moved to waive the reading of the Neighborhood Assistant Act. Mr. Dey seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. The Board received two applications and Ms. Heller moved to schedule a public hearing for June 13, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Police Chief Frank Cappiello explained the Mutual Police Assistance Compact between Woodbridge, Orange, Seymour, Ansonia and Derby. Mr. Dey moved to approve the agreement and authorize the First Selectman to sign it. Ms. Schatz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Ms. Heller moved to waive the reading of the FFY2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heller moved to adopt the resolution of the Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. A.) Ms. Heller reported that the Board received a letter of approval from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission regarding the 8-24 request for the Old Fire House renovations.

B.) Mr. Dey moved to refer the Massaro Farm entrance and parking lot improvements to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review. Mr. Cardozo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. A. Administrative Officer and Director of Finance Tony Genovese delivered his monthly report.

B. Ms. Heller moved to approve personal property tax refunds of \$646.32 and real estate tax refunds of \$970.51 for a total of \$1,616,83. Mr. Dey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Funding requests: Mr. Dey moved the Line Item Transfer 1718-18 in the amount of \$2,578 to replace an old commercial refrigerator in the Senior Center Kitchen. Mr. Cardozo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The following funding request is related to an item under bid awards; therefore the Board agreed to discuss the matter following the bid award.

D. Bid awards: Ms. Heller moved to award bid #2018-08 for the Public Works Garage bid crane to Production Equipment Company in the amount of \$31,975. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Genovese explained that the bid for the Police Department car ports came in higher than expected. The Town has nearly \$150,000 in grant funding for the project. The architect's recommendation is to award the bid to The Total Group for the two car ports and complete the electrical work in-house at a separate time. This brings the bid down to \$158,645.

Ms. Heller moved to award bid #2018-09 for the Police Department car ports to The Total Group of North Branford.

C. Funding requests: Ms. Heller moved to approve Line Item Transfer #1718-19 in the amount of \$8,826 to cover the deficit in the carport project. Mr. Cardozo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Bid awards: Mr. Genovese reported that the bids have come in higher than expected for the Generators/Simulcast Project and that the committee has not made a decision yet.

E. Bid Waiver: Ms. Heller moved to approve the bid waiver to purchase a used 2017 Dodge Caravan for \$18,700 for Animal Control from local vendor Crest Lincoln of Woodbridge. Dr. Lober seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Bond/Note Sale Update: The Board's consensus was to follow Mr. Genovese's recommendation to roll over taxable notes for another year.

12. Town Counsel's Report: Mr. Weiner explained that there are three site agreements for the Simulcast Project, one of which is ready -- the Regional Water Authority agreement. The remaining two will be on a future agenda. Mr. Dey moved to approve the site agreement with the Regional Water Authority and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Health and Life Insurance. Brian Luciani explained that the Town's health and life insurance was put out to bid with all available carriers and the overall increase was 8.51%. Following his recommendation, Ms. Heller moved to approve the renewals with Connecticare for medical, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield for retiree medical over age 65, Dental and Vision, and approve a change to Hartford Life for the group Life A, D & D. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Committee Reports

A. Mr. Cardozo explained that the Ordinance Committee will look at five items – the leash law, agriculture, stormwater, Firefighter tax abatement and solid waste/recycling. The next meeting will be scheduled in June.

B. Mr. Genovese explained that the Personnel Committee met to discuss his proposal to redistribute the duties of the payroll clerk since the position will soon be vacant. Payroll, benefits administration and clerical/accounting will be spread among four current positions with salary adjustments to compensate for extra workload and responsibility. Payroll duties will be assigned to the Public Works office manager with an increase of \$10,500 in salary and an additional week of vacation. Benefits administration will be assigned to the Budget Analyst with a salary increase of \$6,000 and an annual \$3,000 retirement contribution. Clerical and accounting will be assigned to the Tax Collector and Assistant Tax Collector with a salary increase of \$2,500 to each position. This reorganization saves the Town over \$70,000.

Ms. Heller explained that the Personnel Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. Ms. Heller moved to accept the reorganization described by Mr. Genovese and as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Mr. Dey seconded.

Vote Taken:

Aye – Cardozo, Dey Heller, Lober and Schatz

Nay – none

Abstain – Crisco (voted to abstain as Mrs. Crisco is employed as Tax Collector).

15. Ms. Yagla reported that the microgrid press conference was very successful and the project paperwork has been submitted to the State. She also reported that the planning for Fallapalooza is underway.

16. Ms. McCreven reported that the Town earned a technical assistance mini grant for community resilience planning. She also reported that she submitted a few items by the May 1 deadline for pre-check-in for the Sustainable CT project and hopes to receive feedback soon.

17. Ms. Schatz moved to approve the Town Clerk's Report. Mr. Dey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

18. The Board accepted the resignation of Stephen Skowronek from the Town Plan & Zoning Commission with regret.

19. To fill his position until 6/30/21 Ms. Heller moved to appoint Andrew Skolnick, a current alternate. Mr. Crisco seconded.

Dr. Lober moved to appoint Noel Rodriguez. Mr. Dey seconded.

Ms. Heller called the vote on Mr. Skolnick and Ms. Heller, Ms. Schatz, Mr. Crisco and Mr. Cardozo voted in favor; Mr. Dey and Dr. Lober voted against. The motion passed.

As the vacancy was filled, there was no vote on the second nomination.

Regarding the Regional Mental Health Catchment Area Council #7 appointment there was no Human Service Commission recommendation. Ms. Heller explained that the Human Services Commission did not appoint anyone because the council's structure is undergoing a transition.

Ms. Heller moved to confirm her appointment of Mark Levine to the Regional Water Authority Rep. Policy Board to June 30, 2021. Mr. Crisco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

20. Ms. Heller made a motion to approve placing signs announcing the May 21 Annual Town Meeting at the following locations from May 11- 22: End of Lucy Street, Route 63/114, 114/313 and 243/313. Mr. Dey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

21. Ms. Heller made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2018 special Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Cardozo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Dey seconded. Mr. Cardozo and Mr. Dey abstained. Ms. Heller, Ms. Schatz, Dr. Lober and Mr. Crisco voted in favor; the motion passed.

22. On a non-debatable motion, Mr. Crisco moved to adjourn. Mr. Dey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Yagla, Clerk Pro Tem