

The January 14, 2009, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen convened at 6:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Central Meeting Room.

Present: Ms. Heller, Ms. Stein, Ms. Ferrante-Fernandes, Messrs. Fox, Sheehy, and Dr. Sabshin.

Also Present: Mr. Genovese, Finance Director; Mr. Hellauer, Administrative Officer; Mr. Perito, Town Counsel; and Mrs. Shaw, Clerk.

### **WOODBRIIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION – Dr. Stella**

#### **Beecher Road School Update**

- Dr. Stella explained the concept of the “Superintendent’s Parent’s Curriculum Academy”. Forty parents from grades K – 6<sup>th</sup> attended the last session to discuss the types of literacy programs offered at Beecher.
- Currently there is a projected surplus of \$217,000 – with most of the savings in Personnel and Health Insurance.

**Visiting Chinese Educators** – Dr. Stella introduced Mr. Zeng Guangguo, Principal from Heze Experimental Primary School, and Guo Zhenhu Principal of the Yingcai Primary School of Binzhou, visiting from Shandong Province, China. He explained that in 1984 the State of Connecticut mandated that schools include in their strategic plan efforts to promote international education and cross cultural communication. To that end the State developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shandong Province. Dr. Stella explained the exchanges that have occurred between the Beecher Road School administration and the Province. Now China has sent two administrators to Woodbridge to research the educational process, school management, and the culture of the area.

Both Mr. Guangguo and Mr. Zhenhu, speaking through an interpreter (Dr. Wu, a Woodbridge resident) highly praised the educational system, staff dedication, involvement of parents, and scope of technology at Beecher Road School. The two educators expressed excitement of the possibility of future exchanges between students, continued communications through e-mail, and video hook-up. They thanked the Town for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to them during their visit.

**Pool Update** – Mr. Hellauer reported on the arrangements that have been made to accommodate the Woodbridge Aquatic Club: Milford YMCA - three lanes on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; Jewish Community Center - 6 lanes on Friday and Saturday and 3 lanes on Wednesday. Other pools on an “as needed basis”: Orange Community Pool; McCain Auditorium at the former Milford Academy; Wesleyan pool until January 5<sup>th</sup>; New Haven Career High School from January 15<sup>th</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Pool Drains** - Mr. Michael Horton presented the bid documents for the rework of the drains and tile work that is delaminating at the Beecher Road School Pool. He noted that the tile work is included as an alternate. Mr. Horton said that the basic scope of the work includes removal of the existing floor drains and repair and restoration of the tile in that area; installing two new drains in the wall, with accompanying piping to the existing system;

concrete work; and tile work to put the pool face back together. In answer to a question from Mr. Sheehy, Mr. Horton said that he does not anticipate any problem in obtaining the required drains and covers to bring the pool into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Safety Act.

Mr. Genovese said that once advertised, there would be a two week return for the bids and he plans to have the result for the February 11, 2009, Selectmens' meeting.

The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Sabshin – Ferrante-Fernandes) to authorize the bid process for the compliance work on the Beecher Road School pool as set-forth in bid documents prepared by Mr. Michael Horton, Engineer.

### **TAX COLLECTOR – REFUNDS AND FORECLOSURE UPDATE– Ms. Crisco**

Ms. Crisco, Tax Collector, explained that the recommended tax refunds included three real estate properties and the rest of the pages listed motor vehicle taxes.

Pursuant to Section 12-124-129 of the State Statutes and the recommendation of the Tax Collector, the board **VOTED** (Sabshin – Fox) to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$12,693.51. Mr. Sheehy abstained from the vote.

**Delinquent Taxes** – Ms. Crisco reported that, in the past five months several of the delinquent taxes from 2004, 2005, and 2006 have been collected. This year the month of December was slower than normal. However, several banks have paid the escrowed accounts. Ms. Crisco said that there are still 59 accounts that have not made the July 2008 payment. She said that these accounts include several small pieces of property, property still in probate and several homes. The Town has only one property in foreclosure.

Ms. Crisco noted that several taxpayers are concerned about their property assessment. Since the market values have decreased, they expect the assessment to decrease. She said that she explains the process of balance between the assessment and the mill rate, and recommended that a news article be written to clarify the process.

### **SMALL CITIES GRANT**

Ms. Crisco reported that currently there are five projects in the Small Cities Grant program. She urged those watching the meeting to call her office to see if they qualify for the program.

### **AMITY TEEN CENTER REQUEST TO WAIVE TPZ FEES**

Ms. Cohen, Treasurer of the Amity Teen Center, was present to request that the Board waive the zoning fee applicable to the Center's zoning application for change of use regarding the hours of operation. The fee is \$150.00.

Dr. Sabshin moved, seconded by Ms. Heller to waive the zoning application fee. Mr. Perito explained that Section 6 of Chapter 5, Article VIII of the Ordinance entitled "*Schedule of Land Use Fees*" states that the Board may waive such fees only for any board, commission, department, subdivision of the Town of Woodbridge. The Amity Teen Center is not a board, commission, department, or subdivision of the Town as defined herein.

The Board then **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Sabshin – Heller) to reduce the amount of the April payment to the Amity teen Center by the \$150.00 zoning application fee.

The Board then recommended that Section 6. of the "Schedule of Land Use Fee" be referred to the Ordinance Committee for possible revision to allow the Board more latitude in waiving such fees.

#### **MASSARO FARM INC. – Jason Morrill**

Mr. Morrill said that his interview with the Valley Gazette has generated interest from people in Ansonia, increasing the e-mail list to 300 people; obtaining historical information from former workers on the farm; meeting with the Director of the Ansonia Nature Center to discuss joint educational programs. The Town has received a Farm Viability Grant matching Grant from the State Agriculture Department in the amount of \$50,000. He said that once the Board accepts the grant, 50% of the funds become available and repairs on the barn could begin. Mr. Morrill said that discussions on the lease arrangement between the Town and the Massaro Farm Inc. should begin within the next few weeks.

In answer to a question from Ms. Stein, Mr. Morrill said that people or businesses interested in donating in-kind services toward the matching grant should contact him through the Massaro Farm e-mail address, either: [President@massarofarm.org](mailto:President@massarofarm.org) or contact Cathy Shufro at [Massaro.farm@gmail.com](mailto:Massaro.farm@gmail.com) to be included on the e-mail list.

#### **FIRE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Calistro and Mr. Rowland, Co-chairs of the Fire Station Building Committee gave an update of the status of the project. Mr. Calistro said that it is expected that the Fire Department will move into the new building the second week of February.

Mr. Rowland said that the walk-through with the Architect on December 16<sup>th</sup> generated a punch list of approximately 500 items. He said that the President of Newfield Construction assured the Committee that most of the items will be completed by January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Another walk through is scheduled for Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, and if everyone is satisfied with the work, the Architect will contact Mr. Gilbertson concerning a temporary Certificate of Occupancy, hopefully to be issued around February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rowland also updated the Board on the following: The sign is to be installed on January 17<sup>th</sup>; the State has approved the crosswalk; landscaping will be completed in the Spring; and the design of the commercial kitchen exhaust has been approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Luther, 128 Northrop Road – Mr. Luther’s remarks concerned the Amity Teen Center. He said that he is the Board of Finance Liaison to the Police Commission, and that over the past year the lack of cooperation of the Amity Teen Center (“ATC”) with the Police Department has been an item on the monthly agenda. Mr. Luther said that the ATC has not conformed with the many agreements forged over the years. He stated that on December 3<sup>rd</sup> the ATC assured the Police Commission that there would be no more private parties. However, the website still advertises the facility, including fee schedule and application forms.

Mr. Luther said that for the benefit of the teenagers in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, Woodbridge budgets \$10,000 toward the expenses of the Amity Teen Center. He noted that the Town of Orange has reduced its contribution. Mr. Luther said that, due to his concerns for the public safety of the users of the ATC and the neighborhood, he is recommending to the to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen that the annual contribution of \$10,000 be withheld (perhaps in the Board of Finance Contingency account) until such time as the Boards of Selectmen and Finance receive a letter from the “*Woodbridge Police Commission stating that they and the Woodbridge Police Department are satisfied as to the understanding by the ATC of the details as to all aspects of their operation which address matters of public safety*”. He further stated that while the Police Department is in agreement with this proposed protocol, the Police Commission is not in unanimous agreement.

Both Dr. Sabshin and Mr. Fox stated that the purpose and scope of the ATC was for the Teens of Amity and it was funded as such. However, it now appears that the Amity towns are funding an organization that has an extended reach to other communities that are not apportioned with the expenses and not contributing to its operations.

**APPLICATION FOR SCENIC ROAD DESIGNATION**

The Clerk verified to the Board that as of 4:30 p.m. today (January 14, 2009) no applications for scenic road designation had been filed with the Selectmen’s Office or the Office of the Town Clerk.

**BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sheehy presented the list of names to be considered for the Beecher Road School Building Committee. The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Sabshin – Stein) to approve the membership of the Beecher Road School Building Committee as follows and to appoint David King (Heller – Stein) as the chair:

Sandra Stein – Board of Selectmen  
Sheila McCreven – Woodbridge Board of Education  
David King – Board of Finance  
David Barkin – Woodbridge Board of education



From: Capital & Non-Recurring Miscellaneous Grants (302-42600)  
For: Fund Nature Trail Project with grant supplied by State Office of Policy  
and Management. Project funded 100% with grant dollars.  
(Sabshin – Ferrante-Fernandes) Unanimously Approved

0809-19 – Allocation Amount: \$ 11,200

To: Capital & Non-Recurring Pool & Gym-Construction  
(302-5150/57500/DRAIN)  
From: Board of Finance Contingency (1170-00/56800)  
For: Design services for pool drain  
(Ferrante-Fernandes – Stein) Vote: Aye – Ferrante-Fernandes, Heller, Sabshin,  
Sheehy, and Stein. No – Fox. Mr. Fox stated that he believes the charges to be  
excessive.

0809-20 – Inter-department Transfer Amount: \$ 6,720

To: Town Plan & Zoning Engineering (1180-00/52150)  
From: Department Revenue Zoning Hearing & Regulations  
(1-5-1850/45420)  
For: Engineering Consultant Services regarding five lot subdivision (118  
Newton Road)  
(Sabshin – Stein) Unanimously Approved

**State of Connecticut Forfeiture Program** – Mr. Genovese explained that there are two sources of Drug Asset Forfeiture funds, Federal and State. The Town of Woodbridge currently has a balance of \$40,000 in the Federal account and \$8,000 in the State account. He said that the accounts are kept separate from the Town's accounting and that the Police Department is the custodian of the accounts. The guidelines for the expenditure of the funds are specific, must be used on drug related expenses, and cannot supplant General Fund expenditures.

The Board agreed to invite Police Chief Marcucci to a future meeting to discuss planned expenditures.

**Fire House Restoration** – Mr. Genovese said that all the bids have been received and a final figure of the amount to be covered has been presented to the insurance company. A meeting with the insurance company is scheduled for January 27, 2009.

Mr. Sheehy said that once the matter is resolved with the insurance company, a committee will be appointed to implement the recommendations for the use of the Old Fire House.

**RESOLUTION – EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR RACE BROOK TRACT  
PHASE III OSWA-167**

The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Sabshin – Stein) to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Woodbridge do hereby resolve that the First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge, Edward Maum Sheehy, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge a Grant Agreement and Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in land known as *Race Brook Tract Phase III OSWA-167* and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**RESOLUTION: ADOPT POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AGREEMENT**

The Board **VOTED UNNAIMOUSLY** (Sabshin – Stein) to adopt the following non-discrimination policy:

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Woodbridge hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-60(a)(1) and § 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 08-245 and sections 9(1)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142, as those statutes may be amended from time to time.

**CROSS WALK – POLICE DEPT. TO FIRE STATION**

There was no discussion regarding the proposed cross walk from the police department to new fire station.

**APPOINTMENT**

Quinnipiack Valley Health District – Alt. to Board of Directors – There was no appointment.

**TOWN COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Executive Session – At 7:50 p.m. the Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(D), 1-225, 1-231.

At 8:15 p.m. the Board moved out of Executive Session

No motions were made or votes taken in Executive Session.

### **ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Sheehy reported that the Ordinance Committee met today at 5:00 p.m. to discuss an ordinance to related timber cutting. The Committee is also working on a Code of Ethics proposal.

### **MINUTES**

**December 2, 2008** – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen, approved by the Board of Finance on December 18, 2008. Approved (Fox – Stein) Abstained: Heller and Sabshin.

**December 4, 2008** – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen, approved by the Board of Finance on December 18, 2008. Approved (Stein – Sabshin) Abstained: Heller and Fox.

**December 10, 2008** – Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting. Additions to be included in the minutes: Mr. Fox was excused; Ms. Heller was present. Approved (Heller – Stein) Abstained: Fox

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Stein – Sabshin) to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Report for the month ending December 31, 2008.

### **PROCLAMATION – WEAR RED FOR WOMEN DAY**

The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Stein – Fox) to approve and adopt a Proclamation designating February 6, 2009, as "Wear Red for Women Day"

### **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Sheehy reported on his activities since the last meeting.

- December 12 – the Town received a check in the amount of \$13,609 from the U.I. for energy conservation in the new fire station
- December 18 – along with Mr. Genovese, Mr. Parsons, and Mr. Hellauer, met with Michael Horton to discuss drain design for the pool
- December 20 – attended the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association Holiday Party
- January 9, 2009 – attended the Beecher Road School Technology tour along with the educators visiting from China
- January 12 – Visiting educators from China met at the Town Hall with the First Selectman. A breakfast was prepared by Gerry Shaw. They then toured the Town Offices, meeting with the Betsy Quist, Assessor; Pat Crisco, Tax Collector; Jeanette Glicksman, Registrar of Voters; and Stephanie Ciarleglio and her staff in the Town Clerk's Office. They then visited the Police Department, the Woodbridge Child

- Center, the Senior Center and the new Fire Station. Both gentlemen, through their interpreter expressed their appreciation for the warm reception they received from the residents and the administration.
- Reviewed letter to Governor Rell regarding “shovel ready projects”. Listed in the letter were the pool drains and covers at \$75,000; Fire House restoration costs not covered by insurance at \$115,000; and solar panels at Beecher Road School at \$25,000.
  - Received a \$10,000 heating subsidy from the State for Beecher Road School
  - Received a check in the amount of \$276,250 from Amity Regional School District #5 that represents Woodbridge’s share of the audited balance of the fiscal 2008 Amity budget.
  - Read the criteria for the First Selectman’s Youth Award – applications due in the Youth Services no later than Friday, March 13, 2009.
  - Connecticut Commission on Tourism is researching the history of the home at 265 Seymour Road, known as Bladen Valley Farm, as a possible historic site for national registration of historic places
  - Preliminary time line for replacement of the Merritt Avenue Bridge: January 2009 – Finalize contract with Cardinal Engineering for design and flood study; September 2009 – complete design; October 2009 – State applies for flood management permits and addresses any adjacent property issues; December 2009 – Finish flood study using final bridge design in all models; October 2010 – Receive flood permits from the State and finalize property issues, advertise/bid bridge project; April 2011 – begin construction; October 2011 complete construction. As part of the project, a flood study will be conducted. The result of that study will decide if the Town can file an application with DEP to remove the Pond Lily Dam. The dam is owned by the New Haven Land Trust and that body has indicated if it is environmentally sound they may have no objection to the dam’s removal.
  - The Selectmen have agreed to make private donations for a bench at the Kucinkas Loop at Beecher Road School
  - Mr. Genovese has received the “Distinguished Budget Award” from the Government Finance Officers Association. Mr. Genovese thanked all the departments and Karen Crosby for the success of the budget in receiving this award

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

There may be a meeting on January 28, 2009, to discuss the Fire House Restoration. The Board agreed to hold the March meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

### **NEW FIRE STATION BALANCE SHEET**

Mr. Genovese explained the Fire Station cost balance sheet that projects a possible contingency balance of \$390,000. He said that in March the notes will be rolled into bonds and the Town will borrow exactly the amount necessary for the project.

Dr. Sabshin requested an update on the Public Works Project for the next meeting. Design documents are being prepared.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hellauer said that:

- the rotted wooden floor has been removed from the Building Official's Office; reconstruction of the office will take six to eight weeks.
- On January 13<sup>th</sup> there was a conference call with Governor Rell regarding emergency shelters during this extremely cold weather.
- The Senior Center is open for residents with heating and/or electric problems
- The forecast is for one to three inches snow – but bitterly cold weather

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**Ms. Ferrante-Fernandes** - Amity Regional District #5 – Mitch Goldblatt presented a podium to the auditorium as a gift from the Class of 1975; the music teachers at the Orange Middle School applied for, and received a grant for “Horns for Kids”, that was accepted by the Board; the bus drivers have agreed to a five year contract and will forego increases for two years; Dr. Esposito has instituted a new High School Counseling Service program; several changes to the accounting procedures have been instituted in light of the theft problems at Amity.

**Mr. Fox** – the Regional Water Authority planned maintenance garage on Litchfield Turnpike has received approvals from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Inland Wetlands. The application is now before Town Plan and Zoning, but has been continued until March, at the request of RWA. Mr. Fox explained that the project is a regional, multi-bay facility, constructed mostly underground. He said that he has received several phone calls from residents whose main concern is the increased truck traffic, not only for the garage, but also for the pool water filling station.

Amity Teen Center – Town Plan and Zoning has approved the ATC application to increase, on a temporary basis, the hours of operation.

Ms. Stein said that if the verbal conduct of some of the TPZ members during the hearing was as described in the local newspapers, then the Commission needs to be reminded of the standards by which it is to conduct itself.

**Ms. Heller** – Library Commission is requesting \$3,500 in the 2010 budget to expand library hours to include 13 Sundays; customer appreciation week (fine amnesty) is scheduled for February 9 – 14<sup>th</sup>.

Friends of the Library – Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009.

**Ms. Stein** – Human Services/Senior Center – 85 people attended the Rotary sponsored Holiday Party; New Haven and Woodbridge senior bus trip to New York City to see the U-Conn women play in Madison Square Garden; 25 homes received holiday gifts baskets from Human Services and another 16 from the schools and various organizations; \$7,390 has been raised for the Warm Hearts, Warm Homes program.

Youth Evening Program – 185 attended the November program and 177 attended the semi-formal dance.

Woodbridge Board of Education – Finance Committee is reviewing procedures of internal controls for handling of cash in the cafeteria, field trips, and extended day programs; expect to end FY09 with a surplus of \$217,000; the increase for the FY10 budget is at 1.85%.

Woodbridge Clean Energy initiative – seeking ways to increase the involvement of the schools; increase household energy audits; contest for K – 12.

**Dr. Sabshin** – Recreation Commission preparing for its budget presentation; discussion of the pool issue.

Fire Commission – discussed the need to separate the expenses for the Old Fire House and the New Fire Station for the balance of the fiscal year; the recently purchased rescue vehicle should be operational in February; the tanker truck is under construction; a committee is being formed to research and prepare the specifications for a new ladder truck.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk