

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 Writer Sheila McCreven and Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla.

The May 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by First Selectman Beth Heller at 5 p.m.

Beecher Road School – Bob Gilbert

Woodbridge Superintendent Bob Gilbert delivered his monthly report to the Board. There has been a slight decrease in the district's deficit from \$309,000 to \$302,000.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Heller provided her report to the Board as follows:

“To begin my remarks tonight I offer my congratulations to all those who were elected in our biennial Town elections which took place Monday, May 6th – especially members of the current Board of Selectmen: Mica Cardozo, Joe Crisco, and Joe Dey, who along with me have been re-elected by our townspeople. I also send my appreciation to all those who's names appeared on the ballot – running for office is an endeavor that involves many hours of personal sacrifice and those who step up to make these efforts deserve our thanks. So I say “thank you” and I welcome your input and ideas. I know we are all united in our desire to make Woodbridge an even better place to call home.

Thank you to the Registrars, the Town Clerks, and poll workers for a job well done. As a reminder today is the Amity Budget Referendum and polls are open until 8pm for voting.

I also thank the voters for coming out to vote on Monday: you make our democracy function! I am gratified by the vote of confidence in me as your first Selectman. As I have said since the beginning of my term in office, I believe local government is at its best when it is collaborative, not partisan. I promise to continue working across the aisle to build consensus as your First Selectman.

I have a few updates on my activities since our last meeting:

- On April 22nd we held the Preliminary Budget Hearing for next year's spending plan, which I attended along with the entire Board – thank you all for being there.
- On April 24th I attended the monthly SCRCOG meeting, where I continue to keep up-to-date on ways we can share services with our surrounding communities and learn from what our neighbors are doing.
- On April 25th I visited the Orange Community Nursery School which has made a home for itself at our Congregational Church Parish House right here on

Meetinghouse Lane. While there I was invited to read a storybook to the children – it was a delight of course.

- On April 27th I took part in the ceremonies on the Town Green for the Bethwood Baseball Opening Day – where I also presented a citation to Dwight Rowland on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge to congratulate him for 35 years of service to the Bethwood Baseball League.
- On May 2nd I took part in the National Day of Prayer, which took place indoors at the Center Building due to the weather this year.
- On May 5th I attended the Open House at the Old South School on Johnson Road, which was hosted by the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society. My appreciation to all the members of that group who make these events possible so the public can deepen their understanding of our community's history. It was a lovely event.
- Last, just yesterday I took part in an official Ribbon Cutting ceremony at a new restaurant on Amity Road, Paolo's. As we continue to focus attention of economic development efforts in our business district, I want to welcome Paolo's and encourage town residents to "Shop Woodbridge, Dine Woodbridge, Try Woodbridge."

Ordinance Committee Report

Mr. Cardozo provided a summary of the committee's meeting, which took place May 7th along with an explanation of the topics that will be taken up at the committee's next meeting, scheduled for June 10th. He described the committee's recommendation regarding updates to the Solid Waste and Recycling ordinance and the process by which the final text was developed to bring the Town's ordinance into compliance with recent state requirements.

Ms. Heller made a motion to set a public hearing for the Solid Waste And Recycling Ordinance for June 12th 2019 at 7:00 pm. Ms. Schatz seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Schatz reported that she was not able to attend the Amity Board of Education meeting last month.

Mr. Crisco reported that Town Plan and Zoning met May 7th and voted to change the Zoning Regulations to combine the allowance percentage of coverages for residences and accessory buildings in the Residential A District into a total coverage of 15% of the lot instead of 12% for the residence and 3% for accessory buildings.

Mr. Cardozo reported that the Recreation Commission met April 29th and discussed maintenance of the tennis courts and the skating/parking surface at Alegi. They are

planning for a special youth basketball clinic associated with former UCONN coach Kevin Ollie's Foundation. They also made adjustments to program hours due to their budget request reduction. The Economic Development Commission will not meet until May 9th.

Dr. Lober reported that the Library and Human Services commissions have not met yet this month. He also reported that CUPOP presented their first event in the 'First Tuesday' series at the Library. It was well attended and focused on Invasive Plants. CUPOP also covered several other agenda items including review of the POCD goals that relate to CUPOP's areas of oversight.

Strategic Plan

Jeff Ziplow and Lindsey Donato from Blum Shapiro presented an overview and answered questions from the Selectmen.

Request approval to create a footbridge on Russell Swamp/Bladen's Brook

Information regarding the Eagle Scout Project of Dominick Rendero was presented by his advisor Bart Picarello (Dominick was unable to attend due to a Lacrosse game). Ms. Heller made a motion to refer the project to TPZ for 8-24 review and to the Inland/Wetlands Agency, and to approve the project subject to the successful outcome of these referrals, and providing that the appropriate insurance and approval from the Land Trust is obtained. Mr. Dey seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Skating/parking surface on Alegi

Mr. Crisco made a motion to approve. Ms. Schatz seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Accept Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications for 2019

Ms. Heller made a motion to waive the reading of the Neighborhood Assistance Act. Mr. Cardozo seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to accept the applications of the Jewish Federation/JCC, The Amity Teen Center, and Marakesh as presented in the Board's packet, and schedule a 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing for the June 12, 2019 Board Meeting. Mr. Cardozo seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people spoke against development at the former Country Club of Woodbridge: Tom Weil stated that pavement conditions on Woodfield Road are bad and repaving should not wait for a construction project on the property. He also asked if a developer would guarantee payment of property taxes; Cheryl Lipson suggested that the Board should make another site visit to walk the property and suggested that public comment be scheduled in the agenda after future presentations, not before; Javier Aviles inquired about the possibility of solar panels on the property and asked if there would be a market for over-55 home buyers in a town with a high mill rate; Adrienne

Micci Smith asked that the Board consider other options not just over-55 housing for the property. Phyllis Genel commented that the Town should be maintaining the former Country Club property and if a referendum should fail that a plan to maintain the property should be enacted.

Update on the Former Country Club Property -- Constructability Study

Jim Pretti, Principal, Criscuolo Engineering; Terry Gilbertson, Building Official; and Kristine Sullivan, Land Use Analyst attended to answer questions from the Selectmen regarding the Constructability Study. Developer Brian St. Pierre distributed an updated map showing a slight re-configuration of his proposal to take into consideration the location of waterways were identified in the Constructability Report. Ms. Heller stated that due to the inability of developer Robert Sachs to attend due to illness, a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen should be scheduled in early June to take up this matter.

Former Country Club Property Grounds and Facility Update

a. Report on mowing options – Action as appropriate

Adam Parsons, DPW Foreman, presented options and answered questions from the Selectmen. Mr. Dey made a motion to approve the options presented by Mr. Parsons to flail mow (\$4,600) and fell trees, stacking the logs onsite (\$7,000), for a total of \$11,600. Ms. Heller seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

b. Facility closure – action as appropriate

Mr. Genovese explained the process that would be followed. Mr. Dey made a motion to proceed with closing the facility, doing all appropriate actions in consultation with the Fire Marshal and insurance agent, to include any other necessary requirements. Ms. Heller seconded. The Selectmen discussed the motion and Mr. Dey proposed a friendly amendment to commence closure work in July. Ms. Heller seconded the amendment. The Selectmen discussed the motion further and consensus emerged that the decision be tabled to the June meeting.

c. Auction equipment and furniture – action as appropriate

The Selectmen tabled consideration of this item.

Administrative Officer/Director of Finance's Report

Mr. Genovese shared his monthly report with the Board.

Tax Refunds

There were no Tax Refunds to present.

Funding Requests

Mr. Dey made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-21 in the amount of \$14,5000 to replace a Fire Department air compressor. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Dey made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-22 in the amount of \$12,735 for necessary items removed from the Police Department request in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be purchased with FY2018-19 funds. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Dey made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-23 in the amount of \$10,000 for to continue removal and trimming of dead and dying trees. Ms. Heller seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-25 in the amount of \$6,000 for requested computers removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be purchased with FY2018-19 funds. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Crisco made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-26 in the amount of \$10,000 for capital improvements at the Darling House removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be funded with FY2018-19 funds. Ms. Schatz seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-27 in the amount of \$25,000 for the Assessor Revaluation Reserve removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be funded with FY2018-19 funds. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-28 in the amount of \$33,000 for Tennis Court Repairs removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be purchased with FY2018-19 funds. Ms. Schatz seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-29 in the amount of \$38,000 for Police Vehicle Replacements removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be purchased with FY2018-19 funds. Mr. Crisco seconded. Voting in favor; Ms. Heller, Mr. Crisco, Ms. Schatz, Mr. Dey and Mr. Cardozo. Voting against; Dr. Lober. The motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-30 in the amount of \$55,000 for requested Public Works Heavy Equipment removed by the Board of Finance in the budgeting process for FY2019-20, to be purchased with FY2018-19 funds. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-33 in the amount of \$11,600 for tree removal and mowing at the former-Country Club property approved earlier in the meeting. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Review Final Year of AMR Contract – action as appropriate

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve the funding of the extension of the contract as presented, with the correction of a typographic error. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Permission to grant CMED credit to Medcom

Ms. Heller made a motion to grant permission, as presented. Ms. Schatz seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Permission to Waive Bid Process – Resurface Tennis Courts with State Contractor

Ms. Heller made a motion to approve the waiver of the bid process and use a contractor under the State bid, Hinding Tennis located in Madison CT, as presented. Mr. Cardozo seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Weiner provided an update regarding the Beecher Road School facility project, and the status of a Special Act pending in the CT General Assembly pertaining to the Town's borrowing to purchase the former-Country Club property.

Assistant Administrative Officer's Report

Ms. Schatz made a motion to approve the Woodbridge Child Center's application to hold a fundraising event on Town Property on September 20, provided that proof of insurance is provided including for the vendors who will participate in the event. Dr. Lober seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Going forward insurance requirements for participating vendors at events will be added to the event application form.

Ms. Yagla reported to the Board on the economic development activity and work she has been conducting in the business district.

Communication Director and Grant Writer's Report

Ms. McCreven provided an update on the letter dated April 15 from the Army Corps of Engineers. She referenced communication received from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office regarding next steps. She also reported on activities she is coordinating including; CUPOP's very successful kick-off 'First Tuesday' talk at the Library on Invasive Plants May 7th and the next event in the series focused on Water Quality scheduled for June 4th; the Complete Streets meeting that will take place May 9th; and a Pagoda Dogwood Tree awarded to Woodbridge in recognition of our Sustainable CT Bronze status; and the re-scheduled Rid Litter Day which will take place June 1st. She is also reported on the exploration of options to install solar panels on Town buildings through a CT Green Bank and UI Energy Efficiency program.

Town Clerk's Report

First Selectman Heller moved to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Report. Ms. Schatz seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Minutes

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Health Insurance Renewal - Action as appropriate

Brian Luciani presented material regarding health insurance renewal and answered questions from the Selectmen. Ms. Schatz made a motion to approve the renewal as presented. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Dey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cardozo seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting concluded at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McCreven, Pro Temp