The November 9, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen was convened at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Central Meeting Room by First Selectman Beth Heller.

Present: First Selectman Beth Heller, Deputy First Selectman Sheila McReven, Joseph Crisco, Paul Kuriakose, Dr. David Lober, and David Vogel.

Present for Staff: Administrative Officer/Director of Finance Anthony Genovese, Town Counsel Gerald Weiner (at 6:00 p.m.), Media Specialist Pua Ford, and Geraldine Shaw, Clerk.

Meeting may be viewed on YouTube: https://youtu.be/6j9fczC_lqk

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REMARKS

Good evening, and welcome to the November 9th Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Once again, thank you all for wearing masks tonight, as we endeavor to continue to respect each other, and try to keep one another healthy, especially those who are immunocompromised or recovering from an illness. We have air filters running and ventilation from a few open windows around us as well.

Last month, I gave you all an update on our many on-going Town projects. The Community and Cultural Center project (which includes improvements to the surrounding outdoor grounds at the library, the center, the grove and the old firehouse) is moving forward, as are the Senior Center upgrades and renovations. I invite Board members to attend a meeting of the Community and Cultural Center Committee on Wednesday, November 16th at 4 pm at Town Hall, where committee members will receive input from department heads on suggested uses of both indoor and outdoor spaces. As a reminder, this new Center will be in the old Firehouse.

As I mentioned last month, Woodbridge Like Me Day was a huge, largely-attended, successful event last month. This event, and others, are sponsored by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. I will be speaking further about the history of this committee before they give us a presentation in a few minutes. Due to the popularity of this ad hoc group, I am appointing another member, Javier Aviles, who will be a welcome addition.

Our annual Veteran’s Day ceremony will be held this year (after a two year COVID hiatus) at 11 am on Friday, November 11th in the Center Gym. Masks will be required, and in the interests of safety, the doors will be open, so we are asking folks to dress warmly. Every one is invited to join this beautiful and moving ceremony. US Army Captain and Vietnam War Veteran Dr. Barry Josephs will once again be the master of ceremonies. Everyone is invited to join us.

As I mentioned at our meeting last month, there may be a Regional Water Authority grant available for up to $5000 to add a water line for use by the Community Gardens folks. Tony and I met with Thera and Andy Stack, Community Gardens volunteer coordinators, and representatives from the Regional Water Authority last week at the Gardens, to explore this further. There are several ways to accomplish this, and if it happens, it will also follow the same procedures we used for water at the Dog park, where the Community Garden members pay the water bills directly and are responsible for the water spigot etc. These folks are exploring ways this might be done, and as I find out more, I will let you know.

You have in your packets several letters from residents, expressing their support for getting the Beecher Road School pool up and running as soon as possible, beginning with the first step of replacing filters and piping, which could keep the pool functioning for a few years. The pool was built in 1972. We will discuss how the Board wants to address this later in our agenda this evening.
Once again, I am pleased to announce that we have been notified that our annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year which ended on June 30th 2022 has once again qualified for the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. I know this is awarded every year to Woodbridge, because we do this so well, but let us take a moment to thank (with a round of applause) our esteemed Finance Director Tony Genovese, our Finance Department members, and our Board of Finance. This is truly a significant accomplishment, and we are so proud of all of you!

Our police officers and dispatchers will be participating in the annual “No Shave CT” fundraiser, in which they are permitted to grow beards during the month of November to support cancer prevention, research, and education. Again, this year, it is being conducted in conjunction with the CT Cancer Foundation, with all proceeds to benefit Connecticut cancer patients. On December 3rd, the Woodbridge Police Department will be conducting its annual “Stuff A Cruiser” holiday toy drive in the D’Andrea’s Plaza parking lot from 9am-3pm to benefit the CT Special Olympics and the Toys for Tots programs. The event will be held in conjunction with Starbucks, Katz’s Deli, and the Micro-Creamery, and donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted.

The Woodbridge Police Department has joined agencies from across the state in displaying memorial decals on their patrol vehicles, in memory and honor of the service and sacrifice of their law fallen law enforcement brothers, Lt. Dustin DeMonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy of the Bristol Police Dept.

At this time of Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation for all of you. Working with all the Town employees, and meeting with so many residents over the past year, has been a wonderful opportunity for me. I am truly grateful, thankful, and so blessed to be your First Selectman. Wishing you and your friends and family a safe happy Thanksgiving holiday.

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT AIR PACKS**
The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to authorize the purchase of 10 SCBA Air packs and 2 RIT packs (Scott Safety SCBA breathing air systems) in the amount of $98,255.74 from the Co-Op Sourcewell contract #84326.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIOS**
The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to authorize the purchase of replacement portable, mobile, and consolette radios via the State of CT contract bid #18978.

**STATE REQUIRED RESOLUTION FOR TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR BEECHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**
The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (McCreven – Crisco) to waive the reading of the required resolution. However, the resolution is included here in its entirety:

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AND CHARGE TO THE TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE**
**FOR BEECHER SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Building Committee for Beecher Road School Capital Projects is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the identified capital projects at the Beecher Road School as identified in item 4 of this charge.
Committee Name: Town Building Committee for Beecher School Capital Projects

1. Membership: Jeffrey Hughes, Woodbridge Board of Education Facilities Committee Chair
   Sheila McCreven, Board of Selectmen Deputy First Selectman
   Donavon Lofters, Board of Finance Member

2. Term: Effective upon Board of Selectmen approval and continue in existence until terminated by the Board of Selectmen;

3. Authority: The Committee shall be advisory to the Board of Selectmen and shall consider and investigate whether any of the work is eligible for State reimbursement;

4. Responsibilities: The Committee shall be responsible for the budget, design, and construction of the proposed construction project.
   a. Recommend to the Board of Selectmen the retention of an architectural/engineering firm to assist the Committee in the design of the proposed project;
   b. Prepare a construction/design plan with the assistance of the architectural/engineering firm retained by the Board of Selectmen, after taking into account the budget, construction challenges, including hazardous materials abatement, and timing of construction during the school-year;
   c. Apply best practices for sustainable design including the use of sustainable and energy efficient products and materials, LEED Certification (if applicable) and the possible use of “green” energy and other techniques and seek grant opportunities to fund or offset the additional potential cost of these initiatives;
   d. Upon approval of the Woodbridge Board of Education and Woodbridge Board of Selectmen of the construction/design plan, seek bids, with the possible assistance of a construction manager, on all aspects of the construction, in accordance with the Town of Woodbridge Purchasing Policy and State requirements for potential reimbursement;
   e. Recommend to the Woodbridge Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen the selection of one or more firms to perform the construction, after receipt and review of the bids;
   f. Overseer construction of the proposed project, with the possible assistance of a professional Owner’s representative;
   g. Seek reimbursement from the State Department of Education for all eligible costs of the proposed construction project.

5. Funding: All expenditures from the Town capital project budget concerning this project shall be incurred in accordance with the policies of the Town of Woodbridge, the Town Charter, and this charge.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen November 9, 2022

FUNDING REQUESTS
The Board of Selectmen VOTED to recommend the following funding request to the Board of Finance:
#2223-12 – Intradepartmental Transfer

Amount: $17,096

To: CNR-Parks Equipment Purchase (302-5200/757410/PKHVE)
From: Parks Part Time Seasonal (1520-00/50320)
For: Additional funds to purchase snow machine

(Heller – Crisco) Aye: Heller, Crisco, McCreven, Kuriakose, Vogel
Nay: Lober

BID WAIVER REQUESTS

Road Salt – The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (Heller – Crisco) to approve the request for a bid waiver to purchase 800 tons of Blizzard Wizard in the initial amount of $74,776.00 from Morton Salt as a sole source vendor.

Sidewalk Snow Machine – The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (Heller – Crisco) to approve the request to purchase the sidewalk snow machine of a Sourcewell contract for $63,220.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (Heller – Crisco) to approve the items listed under the “Consent Agenda”

Tax Refunds – to refund taxes in the amount of $4,072.59 pursuant to Section 12-124 to 129 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the recommendation of the Tax Collector.

Town Clerk’s Reports – to acknowledge the Town Clerk’s reports for the month ending October 31, 2022 and cumulative from July 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.

Minutes – to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022, Regular Meeting

Resignation – to acknowledge receipt of the resignation of Susan Cassidy as an Alternate on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission.

APPOINTMENTS

Inland Wetlands Agency – Alternate to 2025

Ms. McCreven nominated, Mr. Crisco seconded, Enrene van Tonder to fill a vacancy as alternate on the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term ending in 2025.

Mr. Vogel nominated, Dr. Lober seconded, Nicholas T. Zito to serve as an alternate on the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term ending in 2025.

VOTE: Ms. Heller put forth the nomination of Enrene van Tonder for a vote:

Aye: Heller, Crisco, McCreven, and Kuriakose
Nay: Lober, Vogel

As Ms. van Tonder received the majority of votes, the nomination of Mr. Zito was not acted on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 p.m. the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to move into executive session and to invite Mr. Genovese and Mr. Weiner to attend to discuss the following:
a. Pursuant too CGS Section 1-200(6), 1-210(b)(9) Agreement between Woodbridge Board of Education & Woodbridge Teachers’ Association
b. Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B)(D) 60 Woodfield Road
c. Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B) Siting Council – Cell Tower 118 Newton Road – Discuss Court Decision
d. Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B) 18 Deer Run Road – Discussion of Court Decision
e. Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B) – Discussion of pending litigation, Open Communities Trust, LLC et. al. Vs Town Plan and Zoning Commission of the Town of Woodbridge et. al.
f. Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(C) – Security Devices related to Dispatch – Selectman Paul Kuriakose.

At 8:40 p.m. the Board moved out of executive session and returned to Executive Session. Ms. Heller noted that no motions were made or votes taken in executive session.

**ACTION TAKEN ON MATTER HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B)(D) 60 Woodfield Road – The Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (McCreven – Crisco) to authorize the Town Attorney to receive the property as detailed on the map presented this evening as 60 Woodfield Road, for no consideration, receiving approximately 8,000 square feet of a property adjacent to the Country Club of Woodbridge and adjacent to 60 Woodfield Road.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a non-debatable motion by Ms. McCreven, seconded by Mr. Crisco, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk