

The August 11, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen T at 5:00 p.m. by First Selectman Beth Heller via WebEx.

Present via roll call: First Selectman Beth Heller; Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven; Mr. Crisco; Mr. Kuriakose; Dr. Lober; and Mr. Vogel.

Present for staff: Administrative Officer/Director of Finance Anthony Genovese; Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla; Town Counsel Gerald Weiner; Media Specialist Pua Ford; and Mrs. Shaw, Clerk.

The meeting may be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/fZtTGmfH8G0>

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REMARKS

Good evening and welcome to the August 11th 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Last Friday morning, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz came to Woodbridge with our State Legislators, Senators Cabrera and Maroney, and Representative Welander, and Bond Commission member State Representative Dorinda Borer, to celebrate the State Bond Council's \$300,000 award to the Town of Woodbridge to complete the renovations of the Senior Center. Our Human Services staff members took everyone on a tour of the current facility. As you know, this was originally included in our list of projects for bonding, and now we are able to remove that request. I'm so pleased that our seniors, and others who use the Center, will now have the fresh, modern, safe, welcoming air-conditioned space they deserve. I thank everyone involved in helping to move this forward.

As I told you last month, we have had several inquiries from developers interested in presenting their ideas and proposals for the former Country Club of Woodbridge property. In addition to the proposal on the agenda this evening, which we actually previewed yesterday in a draft power point, I have heard from two others that are also interested – New England Brewing is discussing options for the property, and I've also been approached by a group that wants to create a driving range and a three-hole golf course. They are not sure of the acreage they might need at this point. Both have been encouraged to give us a proposal, and as soon as we have something in writing from either or both groups, I will bring them to you for discussion.

The Delta variant has increased the spread of the virus, especially among those not vaccinated. It has been relentless, highly contagious, more deadly, and unfortunately, there is now a dramatic rise in cases among children. Last month at this time the daily positivity rate in Connecticut was hovering around 0.5%. It is now regularly over 2% and sometimes even over 3%. On Friday August 6th it was at 3.52%. Given the new CDC guidelines strongly suggesting that people now go back to wearing masks indoors, we have changed the Town's policy, once again, to require masks inside Town buildings regardless of vaccination status. I have said it again and again - prevention is critical – to protect your health and the health of others.

There will be no more in-person board and commission meetings beginning next Monday until further notice. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask is the best way to get out of this pandemic and to keep our community safe. If you're not willing to do it for yourself, please do it for the children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

I recently learned that municipalities are not allowed to use "no-excuse" absentee ballots for referenda, only for elections through November. Since COVID rates have been rising so quickly I would like to propose that we table the bonding referendum for these projects that we have been working so hard to finalize. I will propose, and it is up to the Board, that that item is be removed from tonight's agenda. I

want to see the direction of the Covid numbers before the board schedules any non-emergency special town meeting and/or referenda. It is very important to me that we keep our residents safe.

On a lighter note, we again received notice that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Woodbridge for our comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This means we have met the program's high standards, which include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Congratulations and thank you to Tony and our Board of Finance.

On August 4th I attended the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative's Post-Pandemic Pizza and Puppy party at the dog park. It was a lot of fun, well-attended, and it was a great way for people to socialize safely. On August 5th I attended the Rotary scholarship award ceremony – three deserving seniors, Rose Parady, Tasha Von Beeden and Madison Grieger—received scholarships for \$1000 each from the organization toward their college education.

Since we have so many new Board and Commission members, I'm going to give a quick review on our liaison role to other boards and commissions. I have had a couple of inquiries from Commission Chairs asking about the liaison roles. They wanted to make sure liaisons are properly included at their meetings. As you all know, liaisons are not members of the boards and commissions they are assigned to. It is at the sole discretion of the chair to include a liaison report, which should be limited only to matters that apply to that Board. Liaisons do not vote on any commission matter, and really should not participate in discussions unless called upon to do so. A liaison serves only to report back to our Board on the activities of boards and commissions. Should a Board or Commission have an issue, or need help with a matter, the Chair should come to Tony or to me for assistance.

Lastly, I will ask Betsy to share her screen which have some lovely photos I took last Saturday at the Transfer Station. Two of our employees, Craig and Anthony, have turned the area into a glorious place of color and beauty. We receive calls all the time from residents complimenting them on the flowers and also the cleanliness of the station. It is simply magnificent! Thank you to them both ... I would encourage everyone to take a moment and take a ride to see this – it's worth the trip!

Thank you.

ACTION TAKEN AT THE MEETING

WOODBIDGE FIRE ASSOCIATION'S REQUESTS

September 11th Anniversary – The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the Volunteer Fire Association's request to hold a ceremony in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 as described at the Selectmen's meeting of August 11, 2021.

Truck or Treat – The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the Volunteer Fire Association's request to hold a drive-through Truck or Treat from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2021, as described at the Selectmen's meeting of August 11, 2021.

YOUTH SERVICE'S GRANT APPLICATIONS

Youth Service Bureau - The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to authorize Youth Services to complete and submit the 2-year Service Bureau grant application for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 in the amount of \$14,186.

Enhancement Grant – The Board of Selectmen, the Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to authorize Youth Services to complete and submit an application for the FY2022 Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$8,537.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT ROUND 2 – Permission to apply

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Crisco – Kuriakose) to adopt the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller or her designee to submit an “Application for Planning Grant” to the Connecticut Department of Housing and administer the funding for undertaking a proactive planning process and layout a strategy for meeting the housing needs of existing and future residents and workers.”

TAX REFUNDS

Pursuant to Section 12-124 – 129 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the recommendation of the Tax Collector, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve Real Estate refunds in the amount of \$6,837.64 and Motor Vehicle refunds in the amount of \$9,779.86 for a total in tax refunds in the amount of \$16,617.50.

FUNDING REQUESTS

#2021-32 – Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$27,600.00

To: Board of Selectmen Legal Fees (1110-00/52130)
From: Employee Benefits – Retirement – Police (1710-00/51210)
For: Cover Legal Fees through June 30, 2021

(Heller – Kuriakose) Unanimously Approved

#2122-01 – Intradepartmental Transfer Amount: \$19,428.00

To: CNR-Fire Machinery/SCBA (302-2300/57410/SCBA)
From: CNR-Fire Machinery/Air Packs (302-2300/57410/AIRPK)
For: Replace SCBA 15-year-old bottles that supply air to firefighters, and have failed testing and inspection.

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously Approved

BID WAIVER – Fire Department – Sole Source Vendor

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the Fire Department’s request for a bid waiver for the purchase of Scott Safety SCBA Air Bottles as 3M is the single source vendor.

APPLICATIONS TO HOLD AN EVENT ON TOWN PROPERTY

7th Grade Picnic - The Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Lober) to approve the Youth Services request to hold the August 25th Youth Services 7th grade picnic on the Town Green from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. and that the expense of any police presence will be paid from the Youth Services budget.

Troop 63 BSA Holiday Tree Sale - The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve Troop 63 BSA’s request to conduct the Troop’s Annual Holiday Tree Sale from November 12th to December 26,

2021, in the Library/Old Fire House Grove as per submitted application. Hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Board also granted permission to install oversized signs on Town property announcing the sale.

Road Race Sign - Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Crisco – Vogel) to approve the Recreation Department’s request to hang a sign advertising the October 2nd Road Race on the Center Road Field fence from September 11 thru October 9th.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk’s Report for the month ending July 31, 2021.

MINUTES

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021, Regular Meeting.

The minutes of the July 28, 2021, Special Meeting were tabled.

RESIGNATIONS

Woodbridge Board of Education – Joyce Shavers: The Board of Selectmen acknowledged, with regret and appreciation for her service to the Town, Joyce Shavers’ resignation from the Woodbridge Board of Education for a term ending June 30, 2023,

Library Commission – Margaret Hamilton: The Board of Selectmen acknowledged, with regret and appreciation for her service to the Town, Margaret Hamilton’s resignation from the Library Commission for a term ending June 30, 2025.

APPOINTMENTS

Woodbridge Board of Education: Nominees to fill the vacancy to 2023

Erin Williamson (McCreven – Crisco)

Daniel Cowan – (Lober – Vogel)

Ms. Heller explained that by Charter a vacancy on the Woodbridge Board of Education is filled by a member of the same political party as the resigning member for a term until the next general election.

With this information – The Board **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Erin Williamson to fill the vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

On a non-debatable motion by Ms. McCreven, seconded by Mr. Crisco, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk

