

MAY 10, 2023

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The May 10, 2023, 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 McCreven, Joseph Crisco, Paul Kuriakose, Dr. David Lober, David Vogel.

Present for Staff: Administrative Officer/Director of Finance, Anthony Genovese; Assistant Administrative Officer, Karen Crosby; Town Counsel, Gerald Weiner; Medial Specialist, Pua Ford; and Clerk, Mrs. Shaw.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REMARKS

Thank you for your patience this past month while I worked to catch up after my mom passed away. Tonight, as a group, we'll be able to address some things that were postponed from last month.

There is renewed interest in the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee, and I could not be happier. I hope you will remember that previously when we attained the Bronze Level Certification in October of 2018 it allowed for access to grant dollars. With renewed interest in certification, we will have potential for both state and federal grant dollars to come to Woodbridge as well as Community Matching Funds. I have developed a DRAFT charge for the Committee, which I will review with the Committee and then share it with the Board of Selectmen. I am pleased to say that we have a wealth of interest, as a total of 12 residents have volunteered. Tom Kenefick and Hillary Drumm have agreed to co-chair this Committee. As of now, in order of interest shown, Lor Ferrante, Kelly Aviles, Leslie Lyons, and Nita Lathi will also serve. We have 6 other people that have since shown interest and will be appointed if vacancies occur.

On May 2, voters in each of the three Amity towns approved the Amity school district budget referendum. That is significant because it now allows for the municipal budget process here in Woodbridge to move forward as proposed. With that said, I thank the residents who participated in the budget process both at the preliminary budget hearing and the referendum. We now look forward to the Annual Town Meeting, which will take place at the Amity High School auditorium next Monday, May 15 at 7:30 pm.

In the interest of public health, I would remind everyone that the CDC recommends those over 65 and those who are immunocompromised receive a 2nd bivalent COVID-19 booster. The Human Services Department, in conjunction with Griffin Health and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, will provide another COVID-19 vaccine clinic on June 1 from 2 to 6 pm in the Center Gymnasium. There are no appointments necessary and primary series vaccines are also available for those ages 6 months and up. Additionally, you do not need insurance to participate.

I want to be sure to express gratitude to the WVFA and its members who hosted the Beth-Wood Baseball Opening Day event, held inside the firehouse this year due to inclement weather. It was great to have the Beecher Road School band play at this event as well, as they always do such a nice job!

On May 6th, I attended the Volunteer Fire Association installation dinner. I offer my sincere congratulations to all those Firefighter volunteers who stepped up to serve as officers for the upcoming year. As a reminder, please consider attending the 23rd annual Spring Fling and Auction WVFA fundraiser on May 20. Pre-order tickets are available through May 15.

Many thanks to Selectman Crisco for attending the National Day of Prayer and for delivering the Governor's proclamation on my behalf. This annual event was held at Trinity Evangelical church.

The annual Woodbridge Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Monday, May 29 at 11 am at the VFW

monument in front of the Center Building on Meetinghouse Lane. This tribute to servicemen and women who died in the line of duty is our community's way of saying 'thank you' for their sacrifice.

Lastly, May 7th through May 16th is National Teacher Appreciation Week. I take this opportunity to commend, and thank, the entire staff and teachers at both Beecher Road School and the Amity District who take such good care of **all** our many children. They all provide our students, an enthusiasm for learning and so much love to our "precious cargo", as my father referred to them, each and every day. Thank you.

ACTION TAKEN AT THE MEETING

MASSARO FARM – LEASE EXTENSION

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the Lease extension in 5 year increments to 2029.

MASSARO FARM GRANT APPLICATION

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to authorize the First Selectman to execute the consent letter to the State of CT Agricultural Commission on behalf of the Massaro Farm grant application entitled "Grow our on-farm youth education program".

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANT ACT APPLICATIONS

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Kuriakose) to receive the following Neighborhood Assistant Act Applications for 2023 and to set the Public Hearing to receive comments for June 14, 2023:

Amity Teen Center Inc. d/b/a 10seldon Energy Efficiency Project	\$ 24,980.00
Cure Rare Disease, Inc. Advancing treatments for rare diseases	\$150,000.00
Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven Energy Equipment Restoration	\$150,000.00

8-24 REFERRAL TO TOWN PLAN AND ZONING

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (McCreven – Lober) to refer Parcel 1 of the site plan for the proposed Community and Cultural Center to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission pursuant to Connecticut State Statute 8-24.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE RENEWAL – BLUEPRINT BENEFITS ADVISORS, BRIAN LUCIANI

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (McCreven – Lober) to authorize the First Selectman to execute the employee Health Care and life Insurance renewal as presented by Consultant Brian Luciani.

FUNDING REQUESTS

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED** to recommend the following funding requests to the Board of Finance:

- #2223-28 - \$ 2,500 (Heller – Kuriakose) Approved
- #2223-29 - \$49,000 (Heller – McCreven) Approved
- #2223-30 - \$28,000 (Heller – McCreven) Approved
- #2223-31 - \$ 5,000 (Heller – Crisco) Approved

BID AWARDS

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED** on the following bids:

- #2023-07 – Catch Basin Cleaning to Janet’s Sweeping @ \$27.00/basin (Heller – Crisco) Approved
- #2023-05 – 60 Month Multi-Function Copier/Printer Lease – to Prism Office Solutions/\$4,894/year (Crisco – Kuriakose) Approved
- #22023-06 – Senior Center Audio Visual Project – to DNR Laboratories for \$24,754.97 (Heller – McCreven) Approved

ADOPT 457b EMPLOYEE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED** (Heller – Lober) to adopt the consolidated 457b Deferred Compensation Plan as described by Mr. Genovese. Mr. Crisco left the room during the vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – McCreven) to approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda:

- Town Clerk’s Report – for the month ending April 30, 2023 and cumulative from July 1, 2022
- Board of Selectmen minutes of the April 14, 2023 meeting
- Resignation of John Anthony Garcia from the Gov. Access Television Comm – to 2025
- Applications hold events on Town property: Board of Selectmen Memorial Day; Tashsa Brown, Gazebo on July 15 for small wedding.

TOWN COUNSEL’S REPORT

- Purchase of 7 Forest Road – State owned property (McCreven – Heller) **Approved**
- Woodbridge Child Center Lease – Authorize Town Counsel and First Selectman to execute the two-year lease for the Woodbridge Child Center (McCreven – Kuriakose) Approved

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:12 p.m. the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to move into executive session: a) pursuant to CGS Sec. 1-200-(6)(C) re Security at the former Country Club of Woodbridge and invite Mr. Genovese and Mr. Weiner to attend. Mr. Weiner noted item b) was removed from the agenda.

At 7:34 the Board of Selectmen returned to the regular meeting. Ms. Heller noted that no motions were made, or votes taken in executive session.

Action on item a) discussed in executive session. It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen that all possible methods of security be investigated concerning security at the former country club all.

ADJOURNMENT concerning security at the former country club all

On a non-debatable motion by Mr. Crisco, seconded by Ms. McCreven, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S Shaw, Clerk

