

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Agenda
March 18, 2021 at 7:30pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84480088382?pwd=d1pWb3dDRDFLN1d1SIBuRkdEUEIHUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 8008 8382

Passcode: 430581

Dial by phone: 646 558 8656

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Acceptance of Greg Murphy's resignation from the Board of Finance
4. Acceptance of Lance Scott's resignation from the Economic Vitality Committee
5. Acceptance of Deborah Bernstein's resignation from the Ethics Committee
6. Acceptance of Gavin Guerra's resignation from the Marketing Committee
7. Discussion/ Decision to change the name of the "Sustainability Committee" to "Sustainable Weston Committee"
8. Discussion/Decision about the Economic Vitality Committee, including its proposal
9. Appointment of Dominic Esposito as Building Inspector for a 4 year term starting April 16, 2021
10. Discussion/ Decision to establish new dates and times for the 2021 Annual Town Budget Meeting and Budget Referendum
11. Approval of property tax refunds
12. Approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meetings held February 18, 2021 and March 4, 2021 and Special Meetings held February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021.
13. Adjournment

DRAFT Motions for the March 18th BOS Reg Meeting

1. Call to order: **No motion.**
2. Pledge of Allegiance: **No motion.**
3. Acceptance of Greg Murphy's resignation from the Board of Finance: **I move to accept Greg Murphy's resignation from the Board of Finance effective immediately**
4. Acceptance of Lance Scott's resignation from the Economic Vitality Committee: **I move to accept Lance Scott's resignation from the Economic Vitality Committee effective immediately**
5. Acceptance of Deborah Bernstein's resignation from the Ethics Committee: **I move to accept Deborah Bernstein's resignation from the Ethics Committee effective immediately**
6. Acceptance of Gavin Guerra's resignation from the Marketing Committee: **I move to accept Gavin Guerra's resignation from the Marketing Committee effective immediately**
7. Discussion/ Decision to change the name of the "Sustainability Committee" to "Sustainable Weston Committee:" **I move to change the name of the "Sustainability Committee" to the "Sustainable Weston Committee."**
8. Discussion/Decision about the Economic Vitality Committee, including its proposal: **I move to adopt the following refined charge for the Economic Vitality Committee:**

The charge of the Economic Vitality Committee is to collaborate with and recommend ideas to the Weston Board of Selectmen that promote the economic vitality of small and home-based businesses in our town. The Economic Vitality Committee will offer recommendations based on analysis that includes:

- **the primary benefits to the town's entrepreneurial and small business community**
- **a roadmap to feasible implementation, including timeline**
- **estimated idea costs and expected source of financing**
- **collaborative input from relevant town boards and committees**
- **regulatory or legal hurdles to implementation**

9. Appointment of Dominic Esposito as Building Inspector for a 4 year term starting April 16, 2021: **I move to appoint Dominic Esposito as Building Inspector for a 4 year term starting April 16, 2021**
10. Discussion/ Decision to establish new dates and times for the 2021 Annual Town Budget Meeting and Budget Referendum: **I move to hold the 2021 Annual Town Budget Meeting on Saturday, April 24th at 2 pm at the Weston High School Stadium, with the vote to take place immediately following at the Weston Town Hall. Rain dates for the ATBM would be on May 1st and May 8th. Furthermore, the Budget Referendum would be held on Saturday, May 1st from Noon to 8 pm at the Weston Town Hall. In consideration of the ATBM being delayed due to rain, the Budget Referendum rain dates would be May 8th and May 15th.**
11. Approval of property tax refunds: **I move to approve property tax refunds totaling \$12,632.27, as presented.**
12. Approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meetings held February 18, 2021 and March 4, 2021 and Special Meetings held February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021: **I move to approve the unapproved minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meetings held February 18, 2021 and March 4, 2021 and Special Meetings held February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021**
13. Adjournment: **I move to adjourn**

Item 1: Call to order: **No motion.**

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance: **No motion.**

Item 3: Acceptance of Greg Murphy's resignation from the Board of Finance: **I move to accept Greg Murphy's resignation from the Board of Finance effective immediately**



Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Fwd: Resigning from Weston Board of Finance

1 message

Christopher Spaulding <cspaulding@westonct.gov>
To: Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 1:04 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **steven ezzes** <stevenezzes@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Resigning from Weston Board of Finance
To: Christopher Spaulding <CSpaulding@westonct.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gregory Murphy** <gmurphy@westonct.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 11:50 AM
Subject: Resigning from Weston Board of Finance
To: Steven Ezzes <sezzes@westonct.gov>

Dear Steve,

I regret to say that I must resign from the Board of Finance effective immediately. On March 19th I will be closing on the sale of my home and moving to Southport.

I apologize sincerely for my inability to provide more notice. I had hoped to find a replacement candidate over the last several weeks but was unsuccessful. And I don't think it is fair to the board or the town to continue to serve during the budget process when I will be gone in a week.

I have nothing but fond memories of serving on the board, especially the privilege of working with you, Dick, Alan, Amy, Rone and Jeff. After 20 years of living in Weston I will certainly miss this truly unique town and all the good people that my family and I have known. And I will remain a frequent visitor.

If I can help you with the process of finding a replacement please let me know, however, adding to my COVID woes I am going in for disc surgery tomorrow, so my mobility may be a bit limited for a few days.

Let's talk when you get a chance.

Best regards,

Greg

--
STEVEN L. EZZES
203-434-5328
STEVENEZZES@GMAIL.COM

--
Chris Spaulding
First Selectman
Town of Weston Connecticut

Item 4: Acceptance of Lance Scott's resignation from the Economic Vitality Committee: **I move to accept Lance Scott's resignation from the Economic Vitality Committee effective immediately**



Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Resignation from Economic Vitality Committee

1 message

Lance A. Scott <lscott@allianceamericas.com>

Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 9:13 PM

Reply-To: lscott@allianceamericas.com

To: Christopher Spaulding <cspaulding@westonct.gov>, Samantha Nestor <snestor@westonct.gov>, Stephan Grozinger <sgrozinger@westonct.gov>

Cc: Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>, Sara Beer <executiveassistant@westonct.gov>, Carolyn <carolyn@carolynreps.com>, Adam Klimek/USA <adam.klimek@cushwake.com>, DinlencKerem <kerem9@me.com>, David Berger <dberger111@gmail.com>, lscott@allianceamericas.com

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Please reference the attached letter, and kindly update the town website and related contact directories. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Lance

Lance A. Scott

Chairman, Economic Vitality Committee

Town of Weston, Connecticut

+1 203 226 8895 Phone

+1 203 536 8210 Mobile

lscott@allianceamericas.com

CONFIDENTIALITY(NOTICE):

This e-mail message from the Town of Weston, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or authorized to receive information for the recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, use, disclosure, distribution, copying, printing, or action taken in reliance on the contents of this email is strictly prohibited. If you receive this communication in error, please, immediately contact the sender and destroy the material in its entirety. Please note that messages to or from the Town of Weston Economic Vitality Committee may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. sections 1-200 et seq.) Thank you.

 **EVC Resignation_Lance A Scott_210310.docx**
126K



March 10, 2021

The Honorable Chris Spaulding, First Selectman
The Honorable Samantha Nestor, Selectwoman
The Honorable Stephan Grozinger, Selectman

Re: Resignation from my role as Chairman and member of the Economic Vitality Committee

Dear Board of Selectmen,

It is with regret that I hereby memorialize my March 4th resignation from my role as Chairman and member of the Town of Weston Economic Vitality Committee (EVC), effective immediately.

It was an honor to be appointed to this pivotal committee, and to serve the town that I've called home since 1997. Since the day I was appointed on April 2, 2020, I performed extensive research of best practices for small town economic development, public private collaborations, and an exhaustive review of all relevant town documents, regulations, minutes of meetings, and countless hours of recorded town video.

It was only in October 2020, when the fifth EVC member was appointed, that we began meeting biweekly as a committee, and working toward more specific recommendations and suggestions in accordance with the EVC charge. Over the next few months, we conducted an extensive outreach to nearly every other town committee, commission, and board, as well as to leaders and citizens from the community to gain a broader perspective of the priorities, challenges, and opportunities for economic vitality in the Town of Weston. This outreach included considerable interaction and attendance at non-EVC meetings, as well as invitations for other town committees to participate in EVC meetings to foster collaboration.

Since mid-January 2021, we had awaited an opportunity to present our preliminary findings and recommendations to the BOS in the hope that we could transition these recommendations into tangible actions in response to an increasingly urgent outcry from the community. We were proud of our work, and enthusiastic about the potential next steps when we were ultimately provided the opportunity to present at the March 4th, 2021, BOS Regular Meeting.

Our presentation itself that evening was fairly uneventful, running approximately 36 minutes from [1:11:55](#) to [1:47:30](#) on the meeting video.

First Selectman Spaulding provided directly blunt feedback at [1:48:40](#); *"I do sense urgency, and I'll consider that enthusiasm on your part, but the timeframes – from the start, I'm just gonna say that none of them – we're not gonna hit those timeframes"*

Thankfully, Selectwoman Nestor and Selectman Grozinger followed with more encouraging and supportive feedback, which was sincerely appreciated and well received by the committee members.

At [1:56:43](#), Dr. Spaulding requested that the EVC *"go and to really seriously take a deep dive into that money issue, because we all want to do everything"*, and further explained at [1:57:21](#) that *"part of what we put your group together to do was to put your brain power towards figuring out the tax advantage incentives...and showing us some real ROI stuff and some real models would be fantastic."*

While I don't disagree that financial return on investment modeling and innovative financing will be essential for the longer-term development of Weston, I do not see this as a prerequisite for execution of our initial recommendations, nor do I view this within the purview of the EVC charge.

Dr. Spaulding further expanded the operational expectations for the EVC beginning at 1:59:42; "*Lance, that's part of the issue. You say find some place for 5 staff members. There is no place, so we're asking for your recommendations where to put them, and that's partially why we created the FOC to look at space optimization. There's no magic space to put them, so some of this stuff is – I wouldn't say premature, but needs to be thought out a little more deeply if you're gonna make a recommendation. It's gotta have the ability to be actionable, not just a will to do it.*"

Further emphasis was placed on the town's inability to take action, with Dr. Spaulding's statement at 2:00:19, "*With Jarvis, since you just brought it up. We don't have a place to put 'em, so thinking about a place to put 'em – I'm done. There is no place!*"

The EVC's efforts were essentially discounted completely with Dr. Spaulding's comments beginning at 2:01:03; "*So just a little tighter thinking about the actual physical operations because you gave us hard deadlines – well, recommended deadlines – but those cannot possibly happen without these things being fleshed out, and I know you're saying Phase I, but Phase I is just saying 'OK the idea is nice'.*"

When I attempted to explain what I felt were misunderstandings beginning at 2:01:30, I was quickly **interrupted** seconds later at 2:01:54. A second attempt was again **interrupted** at 2:02:13. My final attempt to explain a clear misunderstanding regarding our intentionally phased approach and financial planning was once again **interrupted** at 2:08:00, when Dr. Spaulding declared, "*My meeting!...Lance, I heard that you keep saying that if we don't listen to the people, there's gonna be a groundswell – and, there, we're either gonna have to listen to them or face the wrath of the voters. It's not appropriate to do that. OK?!*"

This accusation is grossly out of line, and not representative of the style with which I coordinated the EVC in spite of significant outrage from the community. Dr. Spaulding continued to speak on my behalf with further misleading and disparaging statements, including; "*So Lance, I understand you want to get your message out to everybody. We are trying to work with you and get this done, but it has to be done in a way that we get stuff done in the town. It means cooperation and working with people and not trying to override and try and basically say 'everything you're doing is not working the way we want and we need to change everything'.*"

Dr. Spaulding further misstated my position regarding my colleagues on the FOC, by stating at 2:09:07, "*...and I understand you don't like the way they're [FOC] doing that but we have to cooperate with all the various committees, and I know you don't agree.*"

These statements are gross misrepresentations of my position and my extremely inclusive style of management and collaboration with nearly every committee, commission, and board in town. In fact, I have been extremely pleased with the level of cooperation from **every** committee with whom we've interacted, and I would specifically like to thank the following individuals/committees who generously supported me and the EVC over the past eleven months:

Facility Optimization Committee – Kenneth Edgar, Rick Bertasi, Gayle Weinstein, Richard Wolf, and others

Planning & Zoning Commission – Kenneth Edgar, Harry Falber, Richard Wolf, and others

Building Committee – Richard Wolf and others

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee – Chris Razaki, Gillann Blunsch, and others

Sustainability Committee – Eric Shrago, Alissa Stoltz, and others

Survey Research Committee – Kristana Esslinger and others

Marketing & Communications Advisory Committee – Andrew Palladino and others

Sidewalk Design and Construction Committee – Richard Wolf and others

Library Board – Amy Kindwall Sanborn and others

Commission on Aging / Senior Center – Bruce Lorentzen, Richard Wolf, Wendy Petty, and others

Parks & Recreation Commission – Mark Crowley and others

Children & Youth Commission – Shara Kolodney and others

Insurance Advisory Committee – Eric Bell and others

Lachat Town Farm Commission – Elizabeth Zeppernick, Sterling Collins, Carol Baldwin, and others

Beautification Committee – Claudia Hahn, Nancy Thiel, and others

Board of Police Commissioners – Jess DiPasquale, Woody Bliss, Dawn Egan, and others

Board of Finance – Gregory Murphy and others

Board of Education – Victor Escandon and others

Town Administrator – Jonathan Luiz

League of Women Voters – Helen R. de Keijzer, Margaret Wirtenberg, and others

I would also like to thank the tremendously positive engagement, feedback, and support from the community during my time with the EVC, and of course I wish to thank the exceptionally collaborative and enduring efforts of my colleagues on the EVC, Carolyn Hill-Bjerke, Kerem Dinlenc, David Berger, and Adam Klimek.

Although I feel compelled to resign my role on the EVC due to dramatically differing leadership and management styles with First Selectman Spaulding, I remain fully determined to support my colleagues and fellow Westonites to realize a more diverse, enjoyable, and economically vibrant town. While I recognize that the obstacles to achieving this change are real, and long-standing, I am certain that these challenges can be overcome with a more aspirational vision and more adept leadership.

I have since formed an independent private enterprise, Weston Spectrum, dedicated to improving quality of life, driving economic vitality, and developing fiscally responsible short- and long-term solutions for the town that I love. I encourage interested parties to contact me to learn more about this rapidly evolving project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Lance A. Scott
iscott@westonspectrum.org

Item 5: Acceptance of Deborah Bernstein's resignation from the Ethics Committee: **I move to accept Deborah Bernstein's resignation from the Ethics Committee effective immediately**



Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Fwd: Freedom of Information Act

1 message

Sara Beer <executiveassistant@westonct.gov>

Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 10:09 AM

To: Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>, Christopher Spaulding <cspaulding@westonct.gov>

FYI

Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant
Town of Weston
Selectmen's Office
203-222-2656

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Deborah Bernstein** <dbernstein.westonct@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 11:26 AM

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Act

To: Sara Beer <executiveassistant@westonct.gov>

Hi Sara,

I sent Christopher Spaulding an email (I need to check the date) that I am stepping down from the board of ethics.
Best, Deborah Bernstein

dslb@optonline.net
917 453 9709

On Mar 5, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Sara Beer <executiveassistant@westonct.gov> wrote:

Dear Weston Appointed Official,

On Monday, March 15th at 6 pm, Town Attorney Ira Bloom will be offering an online, interactive training to Weston's elected and appointed officials on the subject of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. It is very important that you attend. Attached is an outline of what Attorney Bloom plans to cover. Below is the information about how you can participate via Zoom.

Appointed officials that are chairs of a board/commission/committee must attend. If for some reason, you are unable to attend then please email Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sara Beer

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88553835341>

Meeting ID: 885 5383 5341

Passcode: 06883

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,88553835341#,,,,*06883#

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656

Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant
Town of Weston

Item 6: Acceptance of Gavin Guerra's resignation from the Marketing Committee: I move to accept Gavin Guerra's resignation from the Marketing Committee **effective immediately**



Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Fwd: Communications Committee resignation

1 message

Christopher Spaulding <cspaulding@westonct.gov>
To: Jonathan Luiz <jluiz@westonct.gov>

Sun, Mar 14, 2021 at 7:33 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gavin Guerra** <gavguerra@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 13, 2021 at 11:44 PM
Subject: Communications Committee resignation
To: <cspaulding@westonct.gov>, <apalladino.westonct@gmail.com>

Hi Chris-

I regret to inform you of my resignation from the Weston Communications Committee. Sadly I just don't have the bandwidth of late to fulfill my obligations. I'm terribly sorry.

Happy to be of help as I can in the future.

Best,
Gavin Guerra

Chris Spaulding
First Selectman
Town of Weston
203-222-2514
Cell 203-216-7577

Item 7: Discussion/ Decision to change the name of the
“Sustainability Committee” to “Sustainable Weston Committee.” I
**move to change the name of the “Sustainability Committee” to
the “Sustainable Weston Committee.”**

Item 8: Discussion/Decision about the Economic Vitality Committee, including its proposal: I move to adopt the following refined charge for the Economic Vitality Committee:

The charge of the Economic Vitality Committee is to collaborate with and recommend ideas to the Weston Board of Selectmen that promote the economic vitality of small and home-based businesses in our town. The Economic Vitality Committee will offer recommendations based on analysis that includes:

- the primary benefits to the town's entrepreneurial and small business community**
- a roadmap to feasible implementation, including timeline**
- estimated idea costs and expected source of financing**
- collaborative input from relevant town boards and committees**
- regulatory or legal hurdles to implementation**

The EVC charge is the same but with guidelines

ORIGINAL CHARGE

- The Town of Weston will establish an Economic Vitality Committee to highlight the importance of economic vitality to our overall quality of life, and to demonstrate the town's support of **small and home based businesses** and economic sustainability. The **town's Economic Vitality Committee will offer suggestions and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to help promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Weston, with a specific focus on our competitive strengths and reinvestment in the town.**

REFINED CHARGE

The charge of the Economic Vitality Committee is to collaborate with and **recommend ideas to the Weston Board of Selectmen that promote the economic vitality of small and home-based businesses in our town.** The Economic Vitality Committee will offer recommendations based on analysis that includes:

- the primary benefits to the **town's entrepreneurial and small business community**
- a roadmap to feasible implementation, including timeline
- estimated idea costs and expected source of financing
- collaborative input from relevant town boards and committees
- regulatory or legal hurdles to implementation

Item 9: Appointment of Dominic Esposito as Building Inspector for a 4 year term starting April 16, 2021: **I move to appoint Dominic Esposito as Building Inspector for a 4 year term starting April 16, 2021**

Chapter C. Town Charter

Article 8. APPOINTED OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Section 8.1. General Powers and Duties

All appointed Officers, Boards and Commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by the General Statutes and the Charter.

Section 8.2. Appointed Officers, Boards and Commissions

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint the following Officers, Boards and Commissions:

(a) Officers	Term (if any, in years)
Animal Control Officer	
Assessor	4
Building Inspector	4
Emergency Management Director	
Fire Marshall	2
Tax Collector	2
Town Attorney	2
Tree Warden	1

(b) Boards and Commissions	Number of Members	Term (in years)
Board of Ethics	5	2
Building Board of Appeals	5	5
Commission for Children and Youth	9 (including 2 students)	3
Commission for the Arts	7	2
Commission on Aging	7	2
Conservation Commission	7	4
Historic District Commission	5 (plus 3 alternates)	5
Library Board	9	4
Panel of Moderators	4	4
Parks and Recreation Commission	7	4

Item 10: Discussion/ Decision to establish new dates and times for the 2021 Annual Town Budget Meeting and Budget Referendum: I move to hold the 2021 Annual Town Budget Meeting on Saturday, April 24th at 2 pm at the Weston High School Stadium, with the vote to take place immediately following at the Weston Town Hall. Rain dates for the ATBM would be on May 1st and May 8th. Furthermore, the Budget Referendum would be held on Saturday, May 1st from Noon to 8 pm at the Weston Town Hall. In consideration of the ATBM being delayed due to rain, the Budget Referendum rain dates would be May 8th and May 15th.

Item 11: Approval of property tax refunds: I move to approve property tax refunds totaling \$12,632.27, as presented.

2019-3-50880	BURKE JANE	\$	53.09	3/16/2021	AJ62110
2019-3-50827	CAB EASTLLC	\$	414.66	3/11/2021	5366
2018-3-52917	GRANITE JOHN	\$	190.20	3/11/2021	C109111
2018-4-80540	GRANITE JOHN	\$	64.28	3/11/2021	00LZLA
2019-3-53323	HONDA LEASE TRUST	\$	115.30	3/11/2021	AG23831
2019-3-53729	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	\$	105.91	3/11/2021	AK26607
2019-3-53685	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	\$	331.21	3/11/2021	AA82288
2019-3-53732	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	\$	82.70	3/11/2021	AJ60153
2019-01-3270	PNC BANK	\$	6,093.17	3/11/2021	RE
2019-3-55491	NISSAN INFINITI LT	\$	86.39	3/11/2021	AH88899
2019-1-2897	ROOT DAVID	\$	5,095.36	3/11/2021	RE

TOTAL \$ 12,632.27 SUBMITTED FOR 3/18/2021 MEETING

Item 12: Approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meetings held February 18, 2021 and March 4, 2021 and Special Meetings held February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021: **I move to approve the unapproved minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meetings held February 18, 2021 and March 4, 2021 and Special Meetings held February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021**

Item 13: Adjournment: **I move to adjourn**

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting to be held remotely due to COVID 19**

1. **Call to order:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7.30pm, also in attendance were Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Joseph Leone, Elizabeth Lubliner and Ted Craft

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited.

First Selectman Spaulding made a motion to add an interview of Elizabeth Lubliner for the Survey Research Committee to the agenda: Selectwoman Nestor moved to interview Elizabeth Lubliner. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Interview of Joseph Leone for appointment to the Economic Vitality Committee:** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Joe Leone. The Board will vote on this in an upcoming meeting.

4. **Interview of Elizabeth Lubliner for a position on the Survey Research Committee:** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Elizabeth Lubliner. The Board will vote on this in an upcoming meeting.

5. **Discussion/Decision to appoint Mary Welch Francois to the Commission on Aging Committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to appoint Mary Welch Francois to the Commission on Aging Committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Discussion/Decision to appoint Zach Lemle to the Historic District Commission as an alternate for a term to end December 31, 2022:** Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Zach Lemle to the Historic District Commission as an alternate for a term to end December 31, 2022. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Discussion/Decision to appoint Nicci Weise to the Sustainability Committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to appoint Nicci Weise to the Sustainability Committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Discussion/Decision to appoint Andy Bill to the Sustainability committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023:** Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Andy Bill to the Sustainability committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2023. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Discussion/Decision to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with NJR Construction for the Calvary Road Bridge Replacement Project:** Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz briefly recapped the project for the Board of Selectmen. He explained that the agreement had been approved by the Town Attorney and that the next step was for the First Selectman to sign the agreement in order for the work to move forward. Selectwoman Nestor moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with NJR Construction for the Calvary Road Bridge Replacement Project. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. Approval of property tax refunds:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to approve property tax refunds totaling \$10,123.37, as presented. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The vote carried unanimously.
- 11. Approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on February 4, 2021:** Selectman Grozinger moved to approve the unapproved minutes from the February 4, 2021 meeting, as presented. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.
- 12. Executive session for the purpose of discussing a potential real estate transaction:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to enter into executive session at 8.13pm with Jonathan Luiz present for the purpose of discussing a potential real estate transaction. Selectman Grozinger Seconded this. The executive session ended at 8.39pm.
- 13. Adjournment:** Selectman Grozinger moved to adjourn at 8.40pm. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting held remotely due to COVID 19

1. **Call to order:** The First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7.30pm. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Catherine Duncan from the Green Bank, Lachat Town Farm Commission Chair Elizabeth Zeppernick, members from the Economic Vitality Committee, Ted Craft and Town Residents.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge was recited
3. **Discussion/Decision to authorize the First Selectman to sign the C-Pace Partial Release Agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank:** Catherine Duncan from the Green Bank outlined the C-PACE program and explained the changes for collecting payments and the impact it would have on the Town of Weston. Selectman Grozinger moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the C-Pace Partial Release Agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Discussion/Decision regarding private events at Lachat Town Farm:** First Selectman Spaulding described a communication the Town received from a resident that was not pleased with the proposed activities and was not pleased to have not received a letter about the proposed new activities. After much discussion, the Board of Selectmen reached consensus that neighbors of the farm and the Lachat Town Farm Commission should try to work together so that neighbors' concerns are heard and addressed. Sterling Collins explained that he would interact with the neighbors because he is both a Commission member and a neighbor of the Farm.
5. **Discussion/ decision concerning a proposal from the Economic Vitality Committee:** Lance Scott, Chair of the Economic Vitality Committee presented a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion ensued, with the Board of Selectmen ultimately reaching consensus that they would spend time digesting the Committee's proposal/presentation and discuss this at a future Board of Selectmen Meeting.
6. **Approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on February 18, 2021, and Special Meetings on February 16, 23, 25, and March 1, 2021:** This item was TABLED.
7. **Adjournment:** Selectman Groziinger moved to adjourn at 9.44pm. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant

Special Board of Selectmen Meeting
Budget Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting held virtually due to COVID-19

1. **Call to order:** The First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7.30pm. Also in attendance were Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Finance Director Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Superintendent Dr. Bill McKersie, WPS Finance Director Phillip Cross, Board of Education Chairman Tony Pesco, Gina Albert , Melissa Walker, Ruby Hedge, Hillary Koyner, Taffy Miller, Tracy Edwards, Lisa Wolak, Patricia Falber, Dan Doak, Laura Kaddis, Ken Craw, Daniel DiVito, Maggie Courter, Michael Del Mastro, Tammy Roberts, Matt Filip and Weston Residents.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** the pledge was recited.
3. **The Board of Selectmen review the Board of Education's budget request for FY 2021-2022:** First Selectman Spaulding asked questions related to programming, health insurance, technology, salary increases, general liability insurance, extracurricular transportation costs, and text books. First Selectman Spaulding asked about regionalized transportation. Dr. McKersie said they are working to problem solve with the help of neighboring towns. Board of Ed Chairman Tony Pesco mentioned that without the State's assistance it is difficult to solve.

First Selectman Spaulding mentioned the fantastic job the schools have been doing with digital learning and asked if there were ways to use these advances moving forward e.g. access to classes not available at Weston schools that are at others. Mr. Pesco, Principal Lisa Wolak and Mr. Ken Craw commented on this, mentioning that the virtual learning environment is here and it needs to be leveraged.

First Selectman Spaulding mentioned the demand from residents for pre and after school programs, saying that this would provide a great amenity for the Town. Ms. Taffy Miller and Ms. Gina Albert commented on the demand, demographics of Weston and the feasibility of this. They mentioned that this would most likely need to be a paid program run in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department who are well suited to run this.

First Selectman Spaulding went through the capital budget, asking which items are critical and which could be delayed. Selectwoman Nestor asked about obtaining a grant for the Air-handling system. Mr. Cross explained that he would look into this. Selectwoman Nestor asked what risks are in the budget. Mr. Pesco commented that the budget is based on the assumption that the schools would be going back to normal attendance. He said they tried to be mindful of this when creating the budget but they may have to make changes to their operating budget and go back to the Board of Finance. Selectwoman Nestor asked what emotional support there is for students post COVID. Dr. McKersie spoke about challenging areas like maintaining current personnel that are ready for an academic and emotional lag in the students, not having a head of HR during the pandemic, special-ed contingencies, social emotional issues etc. and said the budget reflects the thinking in these areas.

Selectman Grozinger asked if the Board of Education was happy with the budget process as it was or if there were room for improvement. Mr. Pesco mentioned that the district had spent a lot of time deliberating the needs for this year; he feels that a multi-year budget could be developed as a planning tool. Selectman Grozinger thanked the Board for a genuine and disciplined budget.

First Selectman Spaulding requested the group reconvene next Thursday, February 25, 2021.

4. **Adjournment:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to adjourn at 9.25pm. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19

1. **Call to order:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7.30pm. Also in attendance were Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling and Weston Town residents.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited.
3. **The Board of Selectmen review the First Selectman's proposed budget request for FY 2021-2022:** First Selectman Spaulding made a PowerPoint presentation. He said the proposed BOS Operating Budget expense would be 2.73% and the proposed mill rate increase would be 2.47%. First Selectman Spaulding went over the capital funding requests. He also discussed the Town debt and mill rate history. He explained the proposed use of unassigned fund balance and also presented a multi-year plan that would improve road conditions in Weston.

Selectwoman Nestor thanked everyone for all of their hard work. She asked a number of questions on the allocated spending accounts for the sidewalk projects and the sale of the Fromson-Strassler property and potential impact of the land sale not occurring as projected. She also asked how the road paving score of 70 was determined and inquired about state reimbursement opportunities for body camera purchases. Lastly Selectwoman Nestor asked about the impact of the Board of Finance's decision to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget that relied on approximately \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance usage.

Selectman Grozinger thanked everyone for a very disciplined budget. He asked for details on the request for a DPW front loader replacement, and also whether there was a formal review process for Town vehicles. Selectman Grozinger also asked for clarity on the litigation costs and regionalization of other areas beyond the Westport/Weston Health District. He advocated for the increase in Library line items saying that they made a compelling case. Library Director Karen Tatarka briefly explained the reasoning for the requests. The Board of Selectmen will discuss this further in the meeting on Thursday, February 25th.

Selectman Grozinger asked about the Police Accountability Legislation and whether there was a way to delay this. Chief Ed Henion explained that there is a statute that requires implementation by July 2022.

Bruce Lorentzen and Helen De Keizer each advocated for full time positions for Wendy Petty and Alison Lisbon.

Craig Cohen, Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department, advocated for a second installment of funding for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) as well as funding next Fiscal Year for a new rescue truck. First Selectman Spaulding said that the Town should grant a mid-fiscal year supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 if the Fire Department does not have success with a pending grant application for the SCBA.

4. **Discussion/ Decision to vote on and transmit First Selectman and Board of Education proposed budgets to Board of Finance:** The Board of Selectmen will vote on this in the meeting on Thursday February 25, 2021.
5. **Discussion/Decision to nominate from the Panel of Moderators a member to serve as a moderator and a member to serve as alternate member for the Annual Town Budget Meeting:** Tabled.
6. **Adjournment:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to adjourn at 9.53pm. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

The minutes were submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19

1. **Call to order:** The First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7.30pm. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling, Superintendent Dr. Bill McKersie, WPS Finance Director Phil Cross, Board of Education Chairman Tony Pesco, and Town residents.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited.
3. **The Board of Selectmen review of the Board of Education proposed budget request for FY 2021-2022 including a possible vote to recommend changes to the Board of Education's proposed budget: \$1,143,750.** First Selectman Spaulding went over capital budget items. Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz provided financial figures related to the High School Old Gym Air Handler Replacement project. Board of Education Chairman Tony Pesco and Superintendent Dr. McKersie explained that air conditioning is not a need in the High School Old Gym, and therefore the proposed air handler replacement project would not include an air conditioning component.
4. **Discussion/ Decision to vote on and transmit the First Selectman's proposed Annual Town Budget to the Board of Finance:** First Selectman Spaulding presented a proposed adjustment to the FY '22 budget document that he provided earlier this week. The adjustment would do the following: A) make the Senior Services Director full-time (37.5 per week); B) fund the Social Services Director's hours at 29.5 per week; C) set the Library's line item for *Books and Audio/Visuals* at \$99,150; and D) Fund DPW overtime at \$12,487. Library Director Karen Tatarka and Senior Services Director Wendy Petty each provided their thoughts on the proposal. Selectwoman Nestor and Selectman Grozinger expressed support for First Selectman Spaulding's proposed budget adjustment. The adjustment brings the BOS operating budget expenditures to \$14,098,026, which is an increase of 2.82% over the current fiscal year. The adjustment would result in a proposed mill rate of 2.5%.

Selectman Grozinger moved to transmit to the Board of Finance the proposed Town Budget of \$14,098,026. Selectwoman Nestor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Nestor moved to transmit to the Board of Finance the Board of Education budget as presented. Selectman Grozinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Grozinger moved to transmit to the Board of Finance the Capital Budget as presented. Selectwoman Nestor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Discussion/Decision to nominate from the Panel of Moderators a member to serve as a moderator and a member to serve as alternate member for the Annual Town Budget Meeting (ATBM):** Selectman Grozinger moved to nominate Woody Bliss as Parliamentarian and Susan Moch as Moderator for the 2021 ATBM. Selectwoman Nestor seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Adjournment:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to adjourn at 8.26pm. Selectman Grozinger seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Monday March 1, 2021 at 10am
Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19

1. **Call to order:** The First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 10am. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Samantha Nestor and Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Larry Roberts, and Town Residents. Selectman Grozinger recused himself from the meeting.

2. **Discussion/decision to hire a new communications center director:** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Larry Roberts for the position of communications center director. Selectwoman Nestor moved to hire Larry Roberts with a start date of March 15 subject to an approval of a criminal background check and a psychological check. The motion passed with Selectwoman Nestor and First Selectman Spaulding voting in favor and Selectman Grozinger abstaining.

3. **Adjournment:** Selectwoman Nestor moved to adjourn at 10.16am. First Selectman Spaulding seconded this. The motion passed with Selectwoman Nestor and First Selectman Spaulding voting in favor and Selectman Grozinger abstaining.

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant