

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark

GUESTS: CFO Sandra Dennies, Bob Nerney, Bruce Hampson, Gail Lavielle, George Ciaccio, Ken Dartley, Milton Pohl, Jan Andras

OTHERS: Christian Camarota (Patch.com), Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager)

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting, March 1, 2010

Tax Refunds

- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector Memorandum dated March 1, 2010

Gifts

- Donation of \$800 from the Laurel Ridge Health Care Center for the March-April Senior Newsletter

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Wilton Commons Update

Mr. George Ciaccio gave an update on the proposed congregate housing facility. Residents of congregate housing receive one meal per day, light housekeeping, planned activities and 24 hour security. The project is proposed to be located on 4.8 acres of town-owned property near the train station and near shopping. The property would be leased for 85 years. Mr. Larry Leach of the Mutual Housing Association advised that the original plan for 74 units has been modified to a two-phase project with 51 units to be constructed in the first phase. Several applications for grant funds have been submitted and are being reviewed.

2. Offer to Purchase Town-owned property at 411 Danbury Road (0.12 acres)

Mr. Brennan advised that The Greens at Cannondale has offered to purchase this piece of property that adjoins their facility. Mr. Nerney advised that this vacant property is on the corner of Route 7 and Olmstead Hill Road. It was once the site of a schoolhouse and was compromised by the taking for Route 7. Wilton Health Care has expressed an interest in purchasing this 0.12 acre parcel to incorporate with their main parcel, but do not intend to develop. He also advised that there is a sewer lateral crossing the parcel that does not have a formal easement. He would suggest that an easement be recorded to go with the land. Mr. Brennan stated that an appraisal will be done to determine fair market value and the process will then continue as per the requirements in the Charter.

3. Authorization to sign MOU with CT Internet Crimes Against Children

Ms. Bruschi moved the following – RESOLVED: that William F. Brennan, the First Selectman be and herewith is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Wilton Police Department for the Town of Wilton with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety for participation in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

4. Appointment to Wilton Energy Commission

Ms. Bruschi moved to appoint Ms. Karen Birck of 239 Thunder Lake Road as a member of the Wilton Energy Commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

5. Interest rate for FY '11 – Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Ordinance

The Ordinance authorizes the Board of Selectmen to lower the interest rate but not to increase over the current 5%. Mr. Creeth and Mr. Clark feel that 5% is high in the current economic climate. It was also pointed out that lowering the interest rate might stimulate the deferral portion of the tax relief program. Mr. Brennan moved to set the Tax Deferral interest rate at 3% for FY 2011. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Miscellaneous Other Business

The Deer Management Committee has several vacancies and needs the appointment of members in order to achieve a quorum for meetings. Pat Sesto has recommended three qualified individuals. Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Mr. Scott MacQuarrie of 33 Woodhill Road, Mr. Brian Fredericks of 1068 Ridgefield Road, and Mr. Frank Mabley of 15 Millstone Road as members of the Deer Management Committee. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Creeth advised that the state is looking to divert funds that are charged on energy bills as “CT Clean Energy Funds” to the General Fund. These funds are on electric bills for the purpose of encouraging clean energy projects. The Wilton Energy Commission feels strongly that this is not an appropriate use of the funds and they are asking the BOS to consider a resolution. Mr. Creeth moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Wilton Board of Selectmen strongly supports that Connecticut Clean Energy Funds (CCEF) be used only for the purpose for which they were raised. The purpose is stated as “to offer financial incentives and educational programs to encourage homeowners, companies, municipalities, and other institutions to support renewable energy and lead the nation toward a brighter energy future”. The Wilton Board of Selectmen does not support the use of these funds for any other purposes, including diversion to the General Fund. The Wilton Board of Selectmen encourages our State representatives to oppose all attempts to divert CCEF funds. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

- C. Public Comment – Mr. Milton Pohl, 417 Hurlbutt Street spoke regarding Wilton Commons. He does not agree with the town providing land worth \$2 million to help subsidize 50 residences. He urged the Board to re-think this project. He also suggests that the Town try to regionalize Library services in order to save money, and possibly close the Library one day a week. Residents could use the Norwalk Library. He feels that in tough times, Trackside should be paid for by the parents and students who participate. He stated: “The Town got along without a teen center for more than 100 years”.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Recent Storm – The DPW and Parks and Grounds crews did some prep work in areas known to have flooding problems that helped when the storm arrived. The damages and power outages were predominately in the southern part of town. CL&P brought in crews from Vermont and New Hampshire to help restore power. The CERT team was out on Saturday assisting in the closing of roads, etc. The DPW crews worked 15-16 hours to clear all trees that did

not involve electric lines. Governor Rell called today to find out about problems in Wilton.

Elderly Tax Relief – Mr. Brennan met with Mr. Berenblum of NESC to discuss a survey to determine the reasons for seniors leaving Wilton. This will be on the agenda of a future meeting.

Relay for Life – The Relay will be held on May 14 and on May 15, the Wittingham Cancer Center will be sponsoring a walk/run in Norwalk. Wilton will be supporting both events that weekend.

Scenic Road – A request for a curb cut for a residential property has been received and, as per the Scenic Road Ordinance, the applicable commissions and departments will be submitting their recommendations within the next 35 days. At that time, after responses have been received, it will be placed again on the BOS agenda.

2. Selectmen Reports

Ms. Bruschi – No report

Mr. Hoffstatter – Talked with Mr. DeRochers, a merchant in Westport, who has been happy to participate in the plastic bag ban. Many people are using re-usable bags.

Mr. Clark – A Wilton delegation of eight recently attended the Climate Change Conference. Both he and Mr. Creeth were impressed with the conference and encouraged that there were 50 towns represented.

Mr. Creeth – No further report

E. Executive Session

Mr. Clark moved to enter session to discuss employee union negotiations and to invite Ms. Dennies to attend. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

The meeting entered executive session at 9:00 pm and returned to open session at 9:37 p.m., at which time no action was taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary