

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
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Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter **ABSENT:** Second Selectman Susan Bruschi

GUESTS: CFO Sandra Dennies, HR Director Sarah Taffel, P&R Director Steve Pierce, Jamie Van Acker, Marilyn Gould, 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 15, 2010

Tax Refunds

- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector Memorandum dated March 23, 2010

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Parks & Recreation Commission

P&R Director Steve Pierce was present, along with P&R Commission member Jamie Van Acker. Mr. Brennan advised that the Board of Selectmen members are not comfortable with banning dogs from all fields, but they do support having the ability for police to enforce a no dog policy at the stadium and Lilly field; and support an educational program for dog owners. Mr. Pierce advised that he met with all youth sports organizations asking them to keep dogs off of fields and to pass this on to visiting sports teams.

Mr. Van Acker stated that the commission has requested an ordinance protecting certain areas that Parks & Recreation is responsible to maintain. They recommend the following: 1) Prohibit dogs from the stadium complex and bleachers, 2) prohibit from all playgrounds and Merwin Meadows with the exception of passing through on the footpath, 3) prohibit dogs from tennis and basketball courts, and 4) prohibit within 25' of athletic fields.

The BOS will discuss this request further and then hold a public hearing if any modifications to the ordinance are considered.

2. Bald Hill Road Bridge – application to State of CT – Local Bridge Program

Mr. Brennan advised that two months ago, notification was received from the State DOT that there are structural problems with this bridge which has been restricted to one lane to ensure safety until repairs can be made. The bridge is the only access/egress for 11 homes. Since work on this bridge has not been budgeted, it will require a supplemental appropriation for the estimated \$520,000 in repairs. A preliminary application has been made to the DOT for a grant in the amount of \$416,000.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the application for a Local Bridge Program Grant for the purpose of making repairs to the Bald Hill Road Bridge. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. This will now go to the Board of Finance.

3. Proposed Agreement with Nursing and Home Care

Ms. Taffel stated that we have a verbal understanding with N&HC that was necessary in order to be ready to go ahead with the H1N1 vaccination program as soon as vaccine became available. That was very successful. She has put together a document to address how state funding would be distributed between N&HC and the Town, and how to handle insurances and billing, to have in place for any future pandemic.

Mr. Clark moved to authorize First Selectman William Brennan to sign the Agreement between the Town of Wilton and Nursing and Home Care.

4. Miscellaneous Other business

Sale of Truck – Mr. Thurkettle received an offer of \$750 to purchase what remains of the 1993 Kenworth truck that burned. Mr. Brennan moved to approve the sale of the 1993 Kenworth truck for the amount of \$750. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

“Shed Your Meds” – A donation of \$15,000 was received from Aquarion for the medical turn-in event. Mr. Creeth moved to accept the donation of \$15,000 from Aquarion Water Co. for “Shed Your Meds”. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

C. Public Comment – Mr. Milton Pohl, 417 Hurlbutt Street stated that between the years 2000 and 2010 the number of taxing units in Wilton increased by 127 units or 2.1%, and the CPI increased 25.8%. The BOS budget, including Library and Capital, increased 84.15%. The number of BOS employees increased by 20.1%, including full-time and part-time. The number of students increased by 11.6% and the Education budget, excluding capital, increased 112.2%. “An increase in the value of a house does not help pay bills.” Mr. Brennan thanked Mr. Pohl for his comments, but pointed out that for the timer period referenced, all of the budgets were passed by substantial margins by the citizens of Wilton. The boards recommend annual budgets to the community, but in our form of government, the citizens vote on each budget proposal.

Marilyn Gould, 10 Chicken Street, feels that over the past ten years, we have experienced relatively good economic times and people were willing to approve budgets because they felt their houses were gaining value. That is no longer the case. The public is no longer willing and able to pay. Mr. Brennan thanked Ms. Gould for her comments. As Ms. Gould was a Selectman for many years, he noted that she was obviously aware that the budget process was not yet completed.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman – No report
2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Creeth – No report

Mr. Clark – Wilton Go Green Festival in the village on May 2.

Mr. Hoffstatter – Regarding a proposed plastic bag ban ordinance, he has spoken with owners of the Village Market and Caraluzzi’s and both are concerned about the cost to small businesses to make a switch to paper. Fairfield University is preparing a study on the effect of switching from

plastic to paper or reusables in the Westport Stop & Shop. Details should be available in 3-4 weeks.

E. Executive Session

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

The meeting entered executive session at 8:30 pm and returned to open session at 9:35 p.m., at which time no action was taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary