

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan  
*First Selectman*

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*Second Selectman*

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011  
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

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

**GUESTS:** Sandy Dennies, Fire Chief Paul Milositz, Jerry Holdridge, Kathy Leeds, Ann Duffy, Nancy McManus, Ileana Barns-Slavin, Jan Andras

**OTHERS:** Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Tom Evans (Villager), Christian Camarota (Patch)

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

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Ms. Bruschi, the consent agenda was approved as follows, with a request from Mr. Hoffstatter that his concerns regarding any pesticides to be used as part of the Lyme Prevention Study be noted in the minutes.

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of 3/21/11

Tax Refunds

- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Refunds as per Tax Collector's Memo dated 3/29/11

Gifts

- Donation of \$50 to the Senior Center by Harold and Dorothy Baer in memory of Dee Burleson
- Donation of \$2,500 to the Fire Department Gift Fund by Realty 7
- All anticipated contributions to the Norwalk River Valley Trail Gift Fund

Each contributor was thanked for their generosity.

## B. Discussion and/or Action

### 1. Acceptance of Federally funded Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Chief Paul Milositz explained that this Federal Grant Program was established after 9/11/01 to help provide equipment, safety improvements and training that fire departments could not otherwise afford. Wilton has been approved to receive \$166,620 which would provide a lot of training over and above the amount in the budget. The money goes directly to the fire departments and requires a 5% (\$8,331) match by the town.

Mr. Brennan moved to accept the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$166,620. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

### 2. Approval of Grant Application to the Historic Documents Preservation Program

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the grant application for the Historic Documents Preservation Program in the amount of \$3,500. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. These funds are used by the Town Clerk's office each year.

### 3. Agreement between Town of Wilton and Georgetown Community Association – G&B Building

Mr. Brennan advised that there have been discussions with the GCA for the past 18 months to prepare this agreement that will allow the GCA to provide the day-to-day management of the G&B building and the community rentals, consistent with Town guidelines. This arrangement is similar to the Wilton Garden Club management of the Old Town Hall. The GCA will be responsible for routine maintenance (up to \$600), utility bills, liability insurance and trash removal. The Town will continue to handle larger maintenance repairs, property insurance, field maintenance and the plowing of the parking lot and driveway.

Mr. Clark moved to authorize First Selectman Bill Brennan to sign the Agreement between the Town of Wilton and Georgetown Community Association, as presented. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

### 4. Wilton Library Trustees

Trustee Ann Duffy reported that the Library is doing well on a tight budget. On the operating side, revenue is up \$14,000 due to collection of late fees, but that is offset by medical and pension

costs, as well as maintenance due to a severe winter, leaving a \$5,000 deficit. However, it is felt that the deficit should be more than offset by good performance in revenues. In restricted funds, a strong performance in revenue, after generation expenses, netted a \$25,000 surplus. Kathy Leeds will prepare a schedule of quarterly meetings with the Board of Selectmen.

Trustee David Waters prepared a draft amendment to the Public-Private Cooperation Agreement regarding the standing committees and Town appointed Trustees (attached). Mr. Brennan moved to approve the Proposed Provision to the PPCA, as drafted by David Waters, dated March 22, 2011. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

5. Wilton Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program Annual Review

As per Ordinance, each year the BOS is required to look at the interest rate used for deferrals. Last year the rate was set at 3%. After discussion, Mr. Clark moved to retain the deferral interest rate at 3% for FY 2012. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Regarding the budgetary cap on the amount of tax relief Mr. Brennan believes that there will be fewer applications in the coming fiscal year. He proposes keeping the cap at \$875,000 but add the provision that if the cap is exceeded, the Board of Selectman could request a supplemental appropriation of up to \$100,000, from Charter Authority funds, which would have no effect on the mill rate. Mr. Holdbridge did not agree that there will be fewer applications.

Mr. Brennan moved to retain the \$875,000 cap for the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program and to recommend that the Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Board of Finance, request a supplemental appropriation of up to \$100,000 if applications exceed this amount. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Miscellaneous Other Business

Truck Bid – Douglas Katz, Parks and Grounds Superintendent, has received four bids for the unused 1995 rack truck and is recommending a sale to the highest bidder. Mr. Brennan moved to accept the bid of \$2,350 from Mr. Richard Johnson of Georgetown. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Lyme Disease Prevention Study Grant – The BOS approved application for this grant on 3/21/11, however, it has been found that specific wording is necessary. Mr. Clark moved that William F. Brennan, First Selectman, and in his absence, Sandra L. Dennies,

are empowered to sign contracts and any amendments hereto, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, between the Town of Wilton and the Department of Public Health or its successor agency. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Senior Survey Report – Mr. Brennan, Ms. Bruschi and Ms. Dennies met last week with a team from NESC to be briefed on the status of the first draft of data, approximately 100+ pages. The executive summary is not yet available. NESC is now developing the report and presentation format. They are requesting one more month to pull everything together, write the copy and prepare a Powerpoint presentation to be delivered to the BOS on May 16.

Yankee Gas – Mr. Brennan met last week with Dan Fitzsimmons of Yankee Gas and Mr. Chris Swan of CL&P. He will be meeting on 4/11 with Mr. Mike Collins, Regional Sales Manager and will invite Lee Wilson who is willing to get other Wilton businesses involved. An extension of the natural gas line could benefit the Town Hall, the schools and Wilton Commons, as well as businesses along Rte 7.

C. Public Comment: None noted

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report -

Clean Up Day – At least 180 residents volunteered last Saturday for a very productive clean up of areas around town. The efforts of Mike Conklin of the Environmental Affairs department are greatly appreciated, as is the participation of various groups in town.

Donate Life – Wilton resident Carol Johnson headed up an effort to create awareness of the need for organ donors. A ceremony was held in front of the Town Hall and the “Donate Life” flag was raised. Residents are urged to visit [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org) to find out more about this National effort.

Allen's Meadow – There is a possibility for the Town to obtain State owned land at Allen's Meadow. Mr. Brennan sent a letter to Rep. Hetherington to be forwarded to the DOT, indicating the Town's interest in this land for recreational purposes.

State Budget – If proposed legislation is passed, Wilton stands to lose \$274,000 in MME Pilot funding from the State. Mr. Brennan sent a letter to the State Finance Committee stressing the importance of these funds to the town. Other communities are

also appealing to the State not to reduce this needed revenue to municipalities. The other Selectmen will be posted on any progress.

Council on Public Facilities – This group has been inactive over the past two years. The RTC and DTC are looking for members to join Malcolm Whyte and Bruce Hampson. Mr. Whyte and Mr. Hampson have been asked to meet with Karen Birck to discuss the high school and to report to the BOS to finalize the closing-out of the project. This would allow remaining surplus funds to go back to the General Fund.

## 2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Creeth: No Report

Mr. Clark: Another meeting will be held at the Library where State Senator Toni Boucher and Representatives John Hetherington and Gail Lavielle will be available to discuss matters in Hartford. The last meeting was not very well attended.

Mr. Hoffstatter -1) Feels there was positive, non-partisan discussion at the previous meeting with our State reps. 2) The Trackside facility has been occupied for 29 out of 31 days in March. On 4/30, they will be holding the Spring Fling, their biggest fund-raiser. 3) The State DOT is offering to subsidize towns in the \$150,000 purchase price of an electric Navistar truck. They would pay all costs above what a regular fuel driven vehicle would cost.

Ms. Bruschi – No report

## E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

Attachment – Memo from David Waters, Wilton Library Assn. Bylaws Committee