

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: Selectman@Wiltonct.org



William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
January 7, 2008

MINUTES

Present: William F. Brennan, Harold E. Clark, Richard F. Creeth, Susan A. Bruschi, Ted W. Hoffstatter

Others: Joe Dolan, Chief Financial Officer, Sarah Taffel, Director of Human Resources

Guests: George McLaughlin, CT Consortium of Municipal Responsibility, Kara O'Connor, The Villager, Brian Shea, The Bulletin

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

A. Consent Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and carried 5-0 to approve the consent agenda as amended:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – December 17, 2007
- Board of Selectmen's Executive Meeting – December 17, 2007

Gifts

- Fifty dollars (\$50) from Gloria Gray to the Fire Department Gift fund.
- Fifty dollars (\$50) from Roberta Shavel to the Fire Department Gift fund.
- One Hundred dollars (\$100) from Mr. & Mrs. Guss Stepp to the Fire Department Gift fund.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Briefing – Charter Commission – Susan Bruschi.

To prepare a charge with specific recommendations to the Charter Commission, Mr. Brennan suggested to the Selectmen that individual sections of the Charter be reviewed one or two sections at a time. At regular BOS meetings over the next 2-3 months the selectmen would review each section and agree on specific subjects for the Charter Commission to examine. Mr. Brennan suggested that this process could be accomplished in 5 or 6 sessions.

Mr. Creeth added that review of specific sections of the Charter could be led by an appointed member of the BOS. Mr. Clark suggested that the Selectmen highlight changes to the Charter Commission on the Wilton Town Website.

Ms. Bruschi added that the Charter Commission Committee should be between 5 and 15 members but no more than a bare majority in one political party.

Mr. Brennan suggested that the Charter Commission Committee contain 9-11 members preferably with an odd number of members for voting purposes.

Mr. Creeth asked if it was clear that the BOS had the authority to appoint the specific Chairmen along with the members.

Mr. Clark suggested that Charter Commission recommendations should be advised to the BOS by a specific date.

Ms. Bruschi added that appointees should be Wilton residents, have various government experience levels and have diverse backgrounds.

Ms. Bruschi agreed to check the State Statutes of Connecticut to clarify existing regulations on appointing a Chairmen and individuals to the Charter Commission.

2. Transfer Station - Discussion of charge to Selectmen's Transfer Station Committee.

Mr. Brennan explained that a committee was formed to analyze the Transfer Station operations and to review the recommendations of the audit report. Copies of the Transfer Station regulations and ordinances were distributed to the Selectmen.

Mr. Brennan expressed concern regarding the cost to operate the Transfer Station, stating that initially Transfer Station costs were to be recovered by operational fees. In most cases the Transfer Station revenues have not been able to cover the operating costs.

Mr. Clarke stated that some communities have implemented stringent recycling regulations, and suggested a 2 phase plan. First, the committee should respond to the recommendations in the audit report. Second, the committee should analyze all other issues and suggested changes. Mr. Brennan agreed that there should be a response to the auditor's recommendations.

Mr. Dolan expressed that Transfer Station operated at costs that varied but did not state a specific amount. However, He added that the range of cost to operate the Transfer Station fluctuated according to the collection of hazardous waste and electronics citing the cost range of \$20,000-\$30,000 per year but not below 20 range or above 30 range.

Mr. Brennan requested Selectmen, Transfer Station Committee members and Mr. Joe Dolan to attend Transfer Station Tour given DPW Director, Mr. Tom Thurkettle on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 2 p.m.

3. Discussion of Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility.

Mr. Brennan briefed the board on the objectives of the consortium. Mr. Brennan stated that the number of unfunded mandates imposes substantial costs to Connecticut communities. As an example, Special Education Program costs have grown greatly over the last several years and concluded that the State of Connecticut should provide available funds for some of the mandates.

A discussion took place on prevailing wage laws and compulsory binding arbitration laws that increase operating costs.

Mr. Brennan requested that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wilton join with and support the Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility in its effort to bring about changes beneficial to the towns and their taxpayers.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Hoffstatter abstained) to join the resolution in support of the Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility.

4. Consideration of contracting with Martin Burger for Property and Casualty Insurance Services – Joe Dolan.

Mr. Dolan expressed that substantial research was conducted on Mr. Burger and he is very qualified for the position.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and unanimously carried to contract with Mr. Martin Burger for Property and Casualty Insurance Services.

5. Review of Fiscal Y09 Budget Process and Schedule – Joe Dolan.

Mr. Dolan reviewed and highlighted the BOF Budget Meeting Calendar for Selectmen. He noted that the budget needs to be finalized, voted and printed by the week of March 7, 2008.

6. Consideration of appointing Eric Fanwick to the Water Pollution Control Authority to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of James Meinhold. Said term to expire July 1, 2009.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Hal Clarke and carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Creeth abstained) to appoint Erick Fanwick to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

7. Consideration of appointing Glenn Hemmerle to the Wilton Library Board of Trustees for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2010.

The Selectmen requested more information on Mr. Hemmerle's background. Interview to be arranged.

8. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Troy Ellen Dixon from the Board of Education effective January 9, 2008.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Richard Creeth and carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Hoffstatter abstained) to accept the resignation of Troy Ellen Dixon.

9. Consideration of appointing Christopher M. Coyle and David Hapke to the Wilton Conservation Commission for a 3-year term ending December 1, 2010.

Mr. Clark requested an interview with Christopher Coyle for appointment to the Wilton Conservation Commission.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and unanimously carried to appoint David Hapke to the Wilton Conservation Commission.

10. Consideration of appointing the following candidates - Sydney Gordon, Richard Ziegler and Philip Verdi to the Wilton Inland Wetlands Commission for a 3-year term ending December 1, 2010.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Clark and unanimously carried to appoint Sydney Gordon, Richard Zeigler and Philip Verdi to the Wilton Conservation Commission.

C. Public Comment

No public comment.

D. Reports

1. First Selectmen's Reports

FAA

A link to Sensible Airspace website is available for all 14 Towns encouraging citizens to file petitions. Town of Wilton paid initial legal installment of \$26,677 and owes \$35,215 remaining balance. Mr. Brennan will present the information to the BOF on January 16, 2008 and, request a supplemental appropriation consistent with earlier discussions with the BOF.

Police Department Public Notice

A Public Service announcement was read on behalf of the Police Department.

Blight Ordinance

Mr. Nerney will meet with the BOS on January 22, 2008 and will prepare specific subjects for discussion.

Speak Up Wilton

Reminder for residents to attend the "Speak Up Wilton," event on Saturday, January 12, 2008.

2. Selectmen's Report

Ambler Farm Proposal

Mr. Clark raised a question regarding the move to make Ambler Farm a historic district. This action should not impede Ambler Farm's rights to conduct fundraising events that are needed. He also noted that control over the playing fields should not be effected in any way.

Presidential Primary

Mr. Clark stated that Presidential Primary would be held on February 5, 2008 and elaborated on The Town of Wilton Citizen's responsibility to vote.

Coyote

Mr. Hoffstatter urged residents to take into consideration safety issues and humane issues if they intend to trap coyotes on their property.

Dog Park

Mr. Hoffstatter stated that Dog Park issues are still being researched.

Support Troops

Mr. Hoffstatter stated that anyone interested in sponsoring a Marine should call Kathleen Warner at 331-7113 or kdwarner12564@optonline.net. He explained that even though it is after the holidays the troops still have needs and should not be forgotten.

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E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Staley
Recording Secretary