

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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

Email to: [Selectman@Wiltonct.org](mailto: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 REGULAR MEETING**

**April 7, 2008**

**MINUTES**

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

**Others:** Joe Dolan (CFO); Steve Pierce, (Parks & Recreation); Cathy Pierce (Social Services), Dr. Gary Richards (Schools Superintendent), Karen Birck (Board of Education, Toni Boucher (State Representative)

**Guests:** Kristen Begor, Patrice Gillespie, Dave Hapke, Malcolm Whyte, Judy Zucker, Lois Acosser, Caroline Wilson, Ned Greene, Karen Birck, Lauren Hughes, Lizabeth Doty, Chris Darttey, Ken Dartley, David Wilson, Frank MacEachan, (Villager), Brian Shea (Bulletin)

**A. Consent Agenda**

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

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – March 17, 2008
- Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting – March 26, 2008

Mr. Creeth asked to have the copies of the actual votes taken for members of the Charter Commission attached to the meeting of March 26, 2008, which will be done.

Gifts

- Five hundred (\$500) from Conservation Commissioner Kristen Begor to sponsor a shade tree in honor of her husband's birthday.

Refunds

- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated March 29, 2008
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's Memorandum dated March 25, 2008

First Selectman Brennan thanked Ms. Begor for the generous gift to the tree fund.

Mr. Brennan stated that since there were so many people here from the public, he would like to move item B4 to the end of the agenda. Mr. Clark moved to do so, seconded by Mr. Creeth. Motion unanimously carried.

## **B. Discussion and/or Action**

### **1. Wilton Conservation Commission – Update on activity and future direction**

David Hapke, Chairman of the Conservation Commission was present and had sent out packets in advance with information. The commission would like feed back from the Board of Selectmen. He introduced the members of the commission who were present and stated that there is a lot of talent working on this commission. They have reviewed the site development plans with Planning and Zoning and with Inland Wetlands. He asked what the Board of Selectmen feel that the priorities should be? Mr. Brennan asked what the commission feels the priorities are, to which Mr. Hapke replied (not in any particular order): 1) the Plan of Conservation and Development; 2) the Tree Plan, 3) the River Walk; 4) Recycling and 5) a regional focus. Mr. Clark asked if water management is part of this and Mr. Hapke answered that it is and that other town's are addressing this issue also. Mr. Brennan stated that the river is not really noticed until the winter when the leaves are off the trees. Regarding the river walk, some of the owners along the river are worried about their liability. We need to look at a strategy to go to resolve this issue. Mr. Creeth stated that he was very pleased to see the comprehensive outline prepared by the Conservation Commission. He was surprised at how many areas in which the commission is involved. The thing that "jumps out at him" is recycling. We need to improve our level of recycling. He feels we need to have electronics collection more than one per year.

The commission was thanked and congratulated on the amount of work they have all put into this project.

### **2. Comstock Steering Committee – Presentation of Statement of Requirements**

Chairman David Stern is relocating and Mr. Malcolm Whyte was present to give the presentation. Last year, the Board of Selectmen approved a new capital process for bonding. In October 2007, the Board of Selectmen voted to proceed with a study for the Senior Center and Community Center on the Comstock site, and appointed the steering committee to do that work. The first step was to develop a Statement of Requirements. Prior to completing the SOR, extensive research was done by the committee on recreation facilities and senior center in our area. This well written report was distributed to the Board of Selectmen prior to this meeting

Ms. Bruschi asked about the space detail. There are eight multi-purpose rooms. Mr. Whyte stated that these rooms would serve multi functions. Mr. Clark asked what the hours would be that the Senior Center would be operating and Mr. Whyte answered that it would probably be 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Mr. Clark asked if each office planned has a current occupant or do they expect to increase staffing? Mr. Pierce (Parks &

Recreation) stated that P&R will stay status quo, but we will need part time personnel for the front desk area, monitoring the fitness center and custodial staffing.

Regarding Social Services, Ms. Cathy Pierce and Ms. Liz Doty were present. They have requested rooms for every current staff member. They may have an increase in hours, but no office space increases.

Mr. Brennan advised that the steering committee has met with the Council on Public Facilities and received a recommendation to go forward. Mr. Creeth was concerned about voting on a project prior to knowing all the costs. Mr. Brennan advised that we are just approving the first phase. This project will come back to the Selectmen several times more and will include all costs, once they have been developed. Mr. Michael Graupner (member of public) stated that the Senior Center is a good thing and the town needs it. The only caution is that we get into these projects and then decide to add things which increases the costs. Mr. John Rich (member of public) asked if some of the facility is duplicating what we already have at the "Y", like the pool or fitness room. Mr. Whyte advised that there is no pool being planned. These are only the basic requirements.

Mr. Brennan MOVED to approve the Statement of Requirements that has been presented to the Board and which has been recommended for approval b the Council of Public Facilities.. Motion seconded by Ms. Bruschi and unanimously carried.

**3. Consideration of a Request by the Board of Education for a supplemental appropriation for design funds for the WHS Project with SLAM Collaborative.**

Schools Superintendent Dr. Gary Richards and Ms. Karen Birck of the Board of Education were present, along with Mr. Bruce Hampton and Mr. Dick Dubow. SLAM is the selected architectural firm for the high school project.

Mr. Brennan advised that the high school project was started before he was in office. This is not a new project. Major maintenance needs have been identified and have to be fixed. Last year, the Board of Education invited the Board of Selectman and the Council of Public Utilities to walk through the building. In May 2007, \$200,000 was appropriated. However, the Board of Ed now requires an additional \$450,000 for design and engineering costs. Until additional funds are appropriated, the Board of Ed requires approximately \$184,196 to cover them through schematic design. Karen Birck felt the Board of Ed has surplus operating funds that would cover this requirement, but needed approval from the Board of Education.

Mr. Clark moved to approve a conditional appropriation of \$185,000 for the high school HVAC project with the condition that the Board of Education come back with a response as to the outcome. Motion unanimously carried.

**4. Review of Article IX of the Town of Wilton Charter – Bill Brennan**

Mr. Brennan went over the comments of the Board of Selectmen to each section of Article IX of the Charter. Next week, Ms. Bruschi will cover Articles VIII and X.

**5. Resolution to adopt Affirmative Action Policy Statement consistent with the State of Connecticut's policy.**

Mr. Brennan advised that this is a state policy. It is necessary to receive grants and bonds from the state. The town attorney has reviewed the document.

Ms. Bruschi moved to approve the Affirmative Action Policy. Second by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried.

**6. Consideration of approving an application to purchase a hybrid replacement vehicle for the Planning and Zoning Department.**

Planning and Zoning Director Bob Nurney was unable to be present, but had prepared a comprehensive report on the purchase of hybrid vehicle to replace a vehicle that had been budgeted for replacement at \$30,000. The Town would be eligible for a \$5,000 state grant if we purchase a hybrid vehicle and the potential for approval is high.

Mr. Creeth moved to approve an application to purchase a hybrid replacement vehicle for the Planning and Zoning Department. Second by Mr. Hoffstatter. Motion unanimously carried.

**7. Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals**

Ms. Lori Bufano was interviewed this afternoon and was personally known by several of the Selectmen.

Mr. Bruschi moved to appoint Ms. Lori Bufano to the Zoning Board of Finance to replace Lisa Chubinsky. Motion seconded by Mr. Hoffstatter and unanimously carried.

**8. Resolution to empower the First Selectman to execute a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.**

Mr. Clark moved the following: RESOLVED: That William F. Brennan, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Motion seconded by Ms. Bruschi and unanimously carried.

**C. Public Comment**

Ms. Boucher, State Representative, stated that regarding the number of people showing up for Town Meetings and/or elections, since 1983, historically in times when we have lower increases in the budget (3-6%) very few people come out. If the increase is 8% or higher, there is a lot of activity. (This was pertaining to earlier discussion regarding the Charter) Also, she is in support of the Comstock Community Center and Senior Center project.

**D. Reports****1. First Selectman's Report**

Mr. Brennan reported that he attended the first Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting. They are requesting that any pictures of veterans who have served in the military (whether during a war or not) be sent to the Town Hall.

Mr. Brennan reported that David Stern is moving to Cincinnati for a new job. He has done a terrific job on the Comstock Steering Committee, as Chairman. Mr. Brennan thanked him for his leadership and many contributions. Ms. Judy Zucker and Mr. Malcolm Whyte have agreed to be co-chairs. The new appointments will be made at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

**2. Selectmen's Reports**

**Mr. Hoffstatter** - reported that he has been invited to join the Land Use Alliance.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

Jan Andras  
Recording Secretary