

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
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Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

GUESTS: P&R Director Steve Pierce, Chris Finkelstein (P&R), Bill Glass (Exec. Dir, Trackside), Katherine Armstrong (Trackside), Marianne Wilson (Trackside), Susan Glass, John Reznikoff, Eric Glass, Kayla Cohen, Bob Cohen, Chris Bergin, John Marchi, Doon Foster, Cathy Pierce (Social Services Director), Malcolm Whyte (Comstock Building Committee), Judy Zucker (Comstock Building Committee), Bruce Hampson (CBC), Joe Dolan (CFO), Sarah Taffel (HR), Jan Andras

OTHERS: Brian Shea (Bulletin), Lauren Mylo (Villager)

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

A. Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – October 20, 2008

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated October 16, 2008

B. Discussion and/or Action

Mr. Brennan moved to add two items and to scramble the agenda – 2) Comstock Community Center Capital Budget, and 5) Library Board of Trustees – BOS appointee.

1. Presentation by Trackside Teen Center on Current Activity and Plans

Mr. Brennan stated that the Board of Selectmen would like to get a feeling about where the Teen Center is going financially. Ms. Marianne Wilson (President of Teen Center Board) reported that there are new members on the Board who are enthusiastic and are good at fundraising. They have a new Executive Director, Bill Glass, who is able to manage the facility and has a marketing/communication business background, plus military experience as a naval officer.

Board Secretary Kathleen Armstrong then gave a powerpoint presentation on the Strategic Plan for the Teen Center.

Mr. Brennan advised that since this will be an extremely difficult budget year, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will be looking for reductions in a lot of areas that they have never looked at before. Trackside and the library are part of it and have to be cognizant that we will be trying to hold down expenditures and increase revenues. When asked about possible grants for Trackside, Mr. Glass stated that the income level of the Wilton population limits grant opportunities.

Trackside Board members were thanked for coming and making a presentation. A follow-up meeting at a later date was also suggested.

2. Comstock Community Center Construction

Mr. Brennan stated that the recent Three Board meeting was to discuss the current financial crisis and how to deal with the budget. Comstock Community Center is a major capital project. We are concerned about the debt service in the current fiscal year, as well as the next fiscal year and years after. We have to consider capital projects through the next five years. The Board of Selectmen is totally supportive of this project but the question is timing.

Mr. Whyte stated that the committee prepared the Statement of Requirements and the budget for this project. They prepared the vision of the project and sent that to a group of architects. The next step would be to interview architectural firms. There is the potential for lower construction costs in the current economy. Maintenance needs of the current building were discussed.

It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to defer this project and assess the situation again in 3-4 months.

3. Revised Agreement between the Town and the Wilton Garden Club for Old Town Hall

Mr. Clark moved to accept the revised Agreement, as amended. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

4. Expenditure Reduction Planning

Mr. Brennan stated that we need to reduce the operating expenses and capital spending in order to reduce the budget. He received an e-mail from State Controller Nancy Wyman who projects that the state will end the 2009 fiscal year with a deficit of \$107.9 million, or more when the impact of the economic downturn is realized. The fixed expenditures in the town budget are close to 80%, which does not leave a lot of discretionary funds to decrease. At the November 13 Operating Committee meeting, he will discuss this with the department heads, asking them to develop contingency plans based on a 2% decrease, a flat budget, and a 2% increase budget. Each scenario will determine the required expenditure reductions and the impact on services to the community.

5. Library Board of Trustees – Appointment

All interested candidates should submit resumes asap and dates will be set up for interviews.

C. Public Comment – None present at this time.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Annual Report – The 2007 Annual Report is now available on the town website and will not be printed and mailed to residents, saving \$15,000. Those who do not have access to the website can request a copy from the First Selectman's office. Many thanks to Sarah Taffel and John Savarese who did an excellent job.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day – There were 653 cars at the recent collection vs. 513 from the year before, a 27% increase. Regarding the municipal solid waste contract, we are getting close to a final agreement. The one major issue has been resolved.

Village District Committee – Planning & Zoning has appointed five excellent members to the Village District Commission.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Mr. Creeth – no report

Mr. Clark – no report

Mr. Hoffstatter – no report

Ms. Bruschi – no report

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Jan Andras, Recording Secretary