

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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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  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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:** Sarah Taffel (HR), Joseph Dolan (CFO), Police Chief Ed Kulhawik, Lt. Don Wakeman, Jan Andras

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

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mr. Brennan advised that DPW senior mechanic Ken Jayne passed away over the weekend. The board members offer condolences to his family.

Mr. Brennan also announced that beginning January 5, 2009, the Board of Selectmen meetings will be broadcast live. The pre-recorded meetings will now be shown eight times each day – 1:00 a.m., 4:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Research is underway to determine the technical issues and costs to create a live TV broadcast of the Annual Town Meeting. To increase citizen voting, it is hoped that live broadcasts will help those who cannot attend to view the meeting before voting on the following Saturday

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 Special Meeting – December 1, 2008

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated December 2, 2008

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated December 10, 2008

ADD TO AGENDA: The Commission on Social Services has asked to postpone their discussion regarding the Comstock Building until they have all necessary information. Mr. Clarke moved to add "Vehicle Sale" to the agenda. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

## B. Discussion and/or Action

### 1. Vehicle Sale

The Police Department is requesting authorization to sell two vehicles that were seized as the result of criminal investigations. Both vehicles are in poor condition and are of no value for police department use. They have a prospective buyer at a price expected to be less than five hundred dollars total. Mr. Clark moved to approve the sale of two Police Department seized vehicles to a prospective buyer. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

### 2. Contingency Planning

All town departments were asked to prepare a contingency plan outlining their budget with a 2% decrease, a flat budget and a 2% increase, and summarize the impact this would have on services. Mr. Brennan distributed copies of these plans and advised that the bottom line cannot be determined at this time because we do not have pension fund numbers, non-union employee salaries or medical benefit costs. The Selectmen will review these numbers. A schedule of the upcoming Board of Selectmen budget meetings was distributed.

Mr. Brennan reported that, along with Sarah Taffel and Joe Dolan, he will be holding a meeting with union representatives to brief them on the plans to manage next year's budget during this financial crisis.

### 3. Pension Plans

Ms. Taffel advised that there are two amendments that require adoption by the Board of Selectmen. One of these is necessary to maintain compliance with the tax law regarding the defined benefit plan. The other is to incorporate changes as negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Fire Fighters Union. The Selectmen have already approved these but they must also be addressed in a plan amendment. These amendments were drafted by a pension attorney.

Mr. Creeth moved to approve the amendment to the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Town of Wilton, Fire Fighters Union, Local 2233. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the amendment to Part V of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Town of Wilton to incorporate certain changes required by the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

4. Dog Leash Ordinance

Police Chief Ed Kulhawik is recommending that the original leash law ordinance be amended to include Merwins Meadow Park and all designated walking trails owned by the Town of Wilton. There are repeated violations in these areas and he feels they should be specifically referenced in the ordinance.

Mr. Brennan advised that he will contact the town attorney to draft the ordinance. At the next Board of Selectmen meeting, a public hearing date can be set and noticed in the newspaper.

5. Consideration of Appointment to SWRPA

Mr. Henry Boucher has been recommended by the RTC to replace Mr. Al Alper as Wilton's representative to SWRPA. Mr. Hoffstatter asked for the opportunity to meet with Mr. Boucher before an appointment is made. This will be arranged.

6. Consideration of Appointment to Inland-Wetlands Commission

Mr. John R. Hall has been recommended by the DTC to fill the remainder of the term of Karen Myers on the Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. Brennan, Mr. Clark and Ms. Bruschi would like to meet with Mr. Hall.

7. Consideration of Appointment to Commission on Social Services

Ms. Peggy Koellmer has been recommended by the DTC serve as a member of the Commission on Social Services. Ms. Bruschi moved to appoint Ms. Margaret Koellmer to the Commission on Social Services. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

8. Consideration of Re-appointments

The Selectmen are grateful that these volunteers are willing to be re-appointed for another term on their respective boards/commissions. Mr. Brennan moved to re-appoint (R) Jonathan Foltz to the Historic District & Historic Property Commission; (D) Elizabeth Mason to the Commission on Social Services; (D) Patrice Gillespie to the Conservation Commission; (U) Richard McCarty to the Fire Commission, (D) Franklin Wong to the Inland Wetlands Commission; and (D) Mark Ketley to the Police Commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Consideration of an appointment to the Library Board

Three candidates have been interviewed for one position on the Library Board and there are two additional candidates who are travelling and could not be

present for interviews this evening. Those interviews will be scheduled before the next Selectmen's meeting, at which a decision will be made to appoint one of these very capable candidates. The remaining four will be advised of other positions that are or will become available.

C. Public Comment – None present

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Emergency Generators – Funds of \$350,000 were appropriated for emergency generators to replace two that were well beyond their life expectancy and one for the Town Hall building. These installations became more complicated than were originally anticipated. Conduits had to be run throughout the basement of the Town Hall. An excellent job to coordinate this project was done by Joe Dolan and a committee of town employees. The installation came in under budget by \$37,000.

City Carting, Inc. – As of 1/1/09, Wilton's solid waste will be transported to the City Carting transfer station on Meadow Street in Norwalk. An agreement has been made with the Town of Norwalk for the use of their transfer station as a back-up facility should it ever be necessary. Mr. Thurkettle, DPW Director will be signing the Letter Agreement.

Ambler Farm – A report has been received by Ken Bernhard, Town Attorney. The Trustees will be meeting on 12/19/08 and will then forward their report. Once received, Mr. Brennan will e-mail all reports to the Selectmen and schedule this matter for the following Board of Selectmen meeting.

Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Brennan was approached by two members of the Chamber who advised that the restaurants in Wilton feel they are at a disadvantage to neighboring towns. The current alcohol ordinance in Wilton requires an 11:00 p.m. cut-off for serving alcohol on any evening. Friday and Saturday evenings represent the largest percentage of business for restaurants. They would like the Board to consider extending the Friday and Saturday evening hours an additional one hour to midnight. Ms. Bruschi suggested requesting the opinion of Chief Kulhawik and asking the Chamber to poll restaurants regarding hours for holidays such as New Years Eve.

Economic Stimulus Projects – The Governor has requested that municipalities submit a list of potential projects that may qualify for funding. Wilton will be submitting the High School Renovation, the Wilton Commons Project, the Danbury Line CIT Program and the bridge over the Norwalk River, as well as other infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks and curbing.

Elderly Tax Relief – The Elderly Tax Relief ordinance was last amended in October 2007. A review of the ordinance will be on the agenda in January.

Towing Hearing Officer – The Statutes require that municipalities appoint a towing hearing officer. Ms. Marian Kilbride currently serves as the Hearing Officer for parking tickets. The Town Attorney will be asked for an opinion on whether the two positions can be held by one person.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Ms. Bruschi – No report

Mr. Hoffstatter – received nine more troop boxes bringing the total boxes that have been shipped to 39.

Mr. Hoffstatter suggests consideration of a plastic bag ordinance similar to that of Westport.

Mr. Clark – compiled a list of mandates and regulations to submit to our state legislators for possible relief from implementation costs. The Board of Education is preparing a separate list. Mr. Brennan will arrange a meeting with State representatives.

Mr. Creeth – No report

E. Adjournment

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

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary