

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

GUESTS: Peggy Reeves, Bruce Hampson, Carol Russell, Al Bartek, Jan Andras

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

First Selectman Brennan announced that this is an historic occasion. Tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting is being broadcast *live* on channel 79 for the first time.

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 Meeting – December 15, 2008

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds and personal Property Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated December 19, 2008.

Gifts

- Gift of \$50 to CERT from Ms. Joy Otis
- Gift of \$200 to the Fire Department Gift Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Sachs
- Gift of 72 chairs and 2 transport dollies (\$1,829) and a pair of rectangular backboard pads (\$243) to the Board of Education from the Wilton Basketball Association

These gifts are much appreciated and those who made donations to the town are thanked for their generosity.

The presentation by the Commission on Social Services will be postponed to a later date.

ADD TO AGENDA: The results of the ballot count for Establishment of Proposed Historic District No. 8, Cannondale Neighborhood was added to the agenda.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Ballot Count for Establishment of Proposed Historic District - Cannondale

Ms. Peggy Reeves, in her last official duty as Registrar before assuming her new responsibilities as State Representative, announced that 25 ballots (representing 16 votes) were properly signed and returned pursuant to the establishment of proposed Historic District No. 8, Cannondale Neighborhood. The vote was as follows: 11.5 votes in the affirmative and 4.5 votes in the negative, therefore 71.8% percent of the votes were cast in the affirmative, exceeding the 66.2/3% that is required to pass. Registrar Tina Gardner assisted in the confirmation and counting of the votes on 12/22/08.

Ms. Carol Russell of the Historic Properties Commission will attend the next meeting to discuss the background of this project. First Selectman Brennan advised that the next step in the process is to hold a public hearing.

2. Wilton Energy Commission Presentation

Mr. Bruce Hampson of the Wilton Energy Commission distributed and reviewed the Wilton Public Buildings Benchmarking Analysis conducted by The Institute for Sustainable Energy. This analysis indicates that Wilton's school buildings are actually operating at better energy efficient levels than the average for the state. However, the town buildings do not compare favorably. It was pointed out that the town hall and other older town buildings do not have insulation and are difficult to heat and cool. Mr. Hampson suggests a professional energy audit to learn where improvements can be made to decrease energy use. The capital costs to make the buildings more energy efficient, would not achieve a satisfactory payback.

3. Proposed Amendment to Wilton Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance

This amendment is being proposed at the request of the Chamber of Commerce to help Wilton restaurants be competitive with other towns. This amendment would allow restaurants to serve alcoholic beverages until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and on New Year's Eve, extending the current cut-off time of 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Brennan moved to hold a public hearing on January 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and discuss a proposed amendment to The Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

4. Proposed Amendment to Wilton Dog Leash Ordinance

This amendment is being considered on the recommendation of Police Chief Kulhawik to add Allen's Meadow and all designated walking trails to the properties where dogs must be on a leash.

Mr. Brennan moved to hold a public hearing on January 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and discuss a proposed amendment to The Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. This public hearing will be held in conjunction with the public hearing on the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance.

5. Contingency Plan

Mr. Brennan advised that we will not have a total on the budget until we receive the benefits costs. The high school renovations project bids must be received by January 23. On January 13, he will be having a meeting with Ms. Birck regarding the effect of deferring portions of the project.

Mr. Clark asked for a report of the numbers of transactions that the Town departments are actually handling since the number of building permits has dropped and how each department budget is affected by having fewer transactions to handle.

6. Consideration of Appointment to Southwestern Regional Planning Assn.

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Mr. Henry (Bud) Boucher as a Wilton representative to SWRPA for a term to expire on December 1, 2009. Motion seconded. Mr. Brennan advised that Mr. Boucher will be replacing Mr. Al Alper, who has been serving as a representative for many years and had done an excellent job.

7. Consideration of Appointment to Inland Wetlands Commission

Mr. Clark moved to appoint Mr. John Hall to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term to expire on December 1, 2009. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

8. Consideration of Appointment to Library Board of Trustees

Five very qualified candidates were considered for the opening on this Board. Mr. Brennan distributed "ballots" for each Selectman to write down their first choice and sign. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Clark moved to appoint Mr. Harold Somerdyk as a Board of Selectmen representative to the Library Board of Trustees for a term to expire on June 30, 2011. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Brennan pointed out that the other candidates were excellent and they will be encouraged to serve on other boards and commissions.

C. Public Comment – Mr. Steve Bartek, Cheese Spring Road, asked if a dog is allowed to swim in the river without a leash. Mr. Brennan answered that the river is part of town property and an owner could allow his pet to swim in the river by using a long leash.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

State of the Town Report – The Report will be broadcast on channel 79 from January 8 to January 15 at various times. It can also be viewed on the town website.

Budget Meetings Schedule – The meeting schedule has been completed and everyone should check the website regularly to note any changes that may have to be made.

Ambler Farm Trustees – The Trustees will be meeting mid-January. When their report is received, it will be on an agenda.

Plastic Shopping Bags – An Ordinance to ban plastic shopping bags has been suggested. Mr. Brennan will call CCM to see if they have any research on what other towns are doing and how it works or doesn't work. The Town of Westport has an ordinance that will take effect in March. Mr. Hoffstatter will be speaking with local retailers to get their opinions.

Annual Town Meeting Live Broadcast – We are continuing to research the ability to telecast the Annual Town Meeting live. Mr. John Saverese has been asked to find out the net cost of telecasting from the Clune Center which has the necessary wiring. This could be a way to inform voters who cannot come to the Town Meeting but do vote on Saturday.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Ms. Bruschi – When this Board discusses the Elderly Tax Relief Program at the 1/20/08 meeting, it would be a good idea to invite Ms. Judy Zucker, who would be able to give a synopsis of the forum that they had both attended.

Mr. Hoffstatter – Regarding “shovel ready” projects being submitted for consideration of economic stimulus grants, he has spoken with State Representative Peggy Reeves and Congressman Jim Himes to try to advocate for the Wilton Commons project and the Wilton High School renovations.

Forty-two Troop Boxes have been sent and there are funds for 47.

Mr. Clark – A meeting is necessary with our state representatives to discuss the list of State Mandates. Mr. Clark will arrange this as soon as possible so that it can be on the next legislative agenda.

Mr. Creeth – He endorses Mr. Hoffstatter contacting Congressman Himes regarding the Wilton Commons project which has been “shovel ready” for quite some time.

E. Adjournment

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

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary