

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  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009  
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

**GUESTS:** Karen Birck (BOE), Dr. Gary Richards (School Superintendent), Joseph Dolan (CFO), David Lisowski (Assessor), Phil D'Amato (Tax Collector), Pat Sesto (Environmental Affairs), approximately 20 members of public, Jan Andras (clerk)

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

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., following a public hearing.

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Bruschi, seconded and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (Mr. Creeth abstained from approval of minutes as he was not present at the 1/20/09 meeting.)

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – January 20, 2009

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds and personal Property Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's memorandum dated January 22, 2009.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Wilton High School Renovation project Status and Discussion of Next Steps

Board of Education Chairman Karen Birck, Schools Superintendent Dr. Gary Richards, Sean O'Toole, Ty Tregallas (Turner Construction) and Building Committee member Bruce Hampson were present. Mr. Brennan gave a brief

background of this project. The Board of Selectmen had asked for information reflecting, 1) a scaled back project to indicate what is absolutely essential to be done at this time, and 2) the financial and timeline impact of putting off any portion of the project. Ms. Karen Birck advised that 77 contractors submitted bids which were opened on 1/23/09. Turner Construction has finished interviews of all but a few of the contractors and feels that the project will come in at a significantly lower cost than was approved by the voters.

Mr. Bruce Hampson pointed out that this is not an air conditioning project. Only 15% of the high school is not already air conditioned. This project will affect air quality. The major cost is replacing 37 year old, obsolete roof top equipment and providing code mandated fresh air to classrooms. The Building Committee was unable to identify any portion of the HVAC system that could be postponed without incurring additional expense and pushing the project past the 2009 construction period (summer). The recommendation of the Committee is that segmenting or postponing any portion of the project would not be a good business decision. It is not known how long the favorable bids being seen at this time will be available.

Regarding the renovation of the Little Theater, which is the only part of the project that can be segmented, Ms. Birck advised that they will come back after the bid interviews with numbers involved with a possible postponement. It was noted that this 4,000 sf area is used for classrooms 5-6 periods every day.

The Council on Public Facilities will be meeting tomorrow evening to discuss this project. The Board of Selectmen and Board of Education will try to coordinate a joint meeting for further discussions.

2. Discussion regarding the proposal to establish a Cannondale Historic District  
A public hearing was held earlier this evening with approximately 30 residents in attendance. Mr. Brennan advised that the Board of Selectmen do not have to take action tonight. There are three options – 1) accept the proposal as presented; 2) reject the proposal with rationale; and 3) refer the proposal back to the Historic District Commission. The Selectmen were concerned with the apparent lack of harmony among the residents speaking at the public hearing. In addition, there were questions raised about two of the properties on the map. The town attorney will be asked to research the issues raised and this item will be placed on an agenda for action, which must be made within 35 days of the public hearing.
3. Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled - Discussion  
This needs-based program, with a COLA provision, to assist seniors and the disabled was last reviewed in April 2007. The question discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting is whether it is time for another review of the program.

Mr. Bob Kelso, member of last review committee, feels that Wilton's program is very competitive in our area, and he does not feel the need for any change at this point. The program is self-adjusting per mill rate increases. Mr. Harry Somerdyk agreed. CFO Joe Dolan also pointed out that there were a number of tax deferrals in FY' 09, which was the first year under the amended program. At this time, we do yet have a feel for what the effect of the benefit will be and not enough time has passed to test the adequacy of the improvements made by the last committee. Ms. Judy Zucker, a member of the previous review committee, suggested a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to discuss the program from a policy point of view. Mr. Ken Dartley encourages the Board of Selectmen to reinstate the committee and he does not agree that Wilton has one of the best programs in the state. Ms. Marilyn Gould feels that a committee should consist of new members with possibly new ideas. In early June, Mr. Brennan will arrange a joint meeting with the Board of Finance to try to reach a consensus on possible goals for a review committee.

4. Consideration of proposed Amendment to the Dog Ordinance regarding Leashing

Mr. Clark moved to approve the amendment to the Dog Ordinance regarding Leashing (attached to minutes). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

The amended Ordinance will also include an updated map.

5. Consideration of scheduling the Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Clark moved to schedule the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Middlebrook School, with an Adjourned Vote on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Middlebrook School. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Brennan advised that the ATM will be broadcast on channel 79 the day after the meeting and that Mr. Savarese will have the video recording available on the website the next day, allowing those interested to view the meeting before the adjourned vote on Saturday.

6. Consideration of a "Grant of Conservation Restriction"

Ms. Pat Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs, explained that this is a standard requirement within the Inland-Wetlands permitting process, which is now requiring approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Bruschi moved to authorize First Selectman William Brennan to execute a Grant of Conservation Restriction by Harvey Melzer, Trustee. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

- C. Public Comment – Ms. Marilyn Gould, 10 Chicken Street, asked if there has been any consideration of a statistical revaluation to reflect the lower property values. Mr. Brennan replied that he does not believe it would have any effect. If property values were adjusted downward, the town's expenditures remain the same. Therefore, it would require a higher mill rate to generate the required revenues from the lower valued properties. Also, a simple statistical revaluation would cost the Town an additional \$200,000 or more.

Mr. Milton Pohl, 417 Hurlbutt Street, stated that the agreement between the Town and Trackside states that a request can be made for an annual appropriation from the Town in an amount not to exceed the direct personnel costs for operating the teen center for a given year. He feels that in the past two budget years, the request was in excess of the personnel costs. In addition, he questions the effectiveness of the teen center in relation to the “per visit” cost to the taxpayer.

#### D. Reports

##### 1. First Selectman

Budget Meetings – The proposed Board of Selectmen budget for the FY'10 will be approximately 1% less than last year.

Operating Procedures – When correspondence/e-mails are received from the public, Mr. Brennan will answer and e-mail copies to the other Selectmen in order to keep Board members informed and to have one source of responses to all correspondence.

Charter Commission – A copy of the Charter Commission timeline, prepared by Chairman Robert Russell, was distributed to the Selectmen. They plan to have recommendations ready for the November election.

Alcohol Ordinance – Mr. Brennan consulted Town Attorney Ken Bernhard regarding the question raised about the cut-off hour for alcohol sales. The interpretation by the Liquor Control Board is that the cut-off time means all glass, bottles or other containers with alcoholic beverages have to be removed from the table at the designated time.

Joint Meeting with Board of Education – Mr. Brennan will try to coordinate with BOE Chairman Karen Birck, a joint meeting on Monday, 2/9/09 at 7:30 p.m., to discuss the high school renovation plans.

##### 2. Selectmen's Reports

Ms. Bruschi – No report

Mr. Clark – No report

Mr. Hoffstatter – No report

Mr. Creeth – No report

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary