

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, FEBRUARY 17, 2009  
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

**GUESTS:** John Wiseman, Nicholas Lee, Sarah Taffel, Joe Dolan, Richard McArdle, Jan Andras (clerk)

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

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda (with corrections to minutes) as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – February 2, 2009 (with correction)
- Board of Selectmen Meeting – February 9, 2009 (as amended)

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds and personal Property Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's Memorandum of February 6, 2009
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as outlined in Tax Collector's Memorandum of February 10, 2009

Gifts

- Gift of \$1,000.00 from Mr. Larry Koch to Youth Services through United W-Way
- Gift of \$25.00 from Mr. Edward Berkowitz to the Wilton Police Department Scuba Diving Gift Fund

Mr. Koch and Mr. Berkowitz were thanked for their generosity.

B. Discussion and/or Action

ADD TO AGENDA

Mr. Brennan moved to add the discussion of a negotiated item, to be discussed in executive session. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

1. Presentation of memorial landscaping plans for the High School Stadium

Mr. John Wiseman and Mr. Nick Lee were present representing the Lt. John G. Corr Memorial Award Fund, Inc. Mr. Wiseman explained that they are offering a gift to the Town of Wilton to be placed within the grounds of the Veterans Memorial Stadium at Wilton High School.

In 1968, six flagpoles were erected to honor Wilton High School graduates who were killed in Vietnam. Two more have died since then, one in Vietnam and Nick Madaras in Iraq. The Board of Directors of the Memorial Award Fund are offering to create a memorial garden in front of the concession stand at the Veterans Memorial Stadium, with flags and markers honoring those Wilton High School students who served and died for our country. Mr. Lee displayed the specific design details of the garden and flags.

Mr. Brennan advised that he had met previously with Mr. Wiseman, who has also met with Mr. Nerney of Planning & Zoning and Mr. Pierce of Parks and Recreation, who both approve of the project.

Mr. Brennan moved to accept the offer for landscaping at the Wilton High School Memorial Stadium as presented to the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. Mr. Wiseman and Mr. Lee were thanked for coming and asked to express the gratitude of the Board of Selectmen, the Town and the families of those being memorialized.

2. Ambler Farm, proposed historic property, Wilton Historic District and Historic Properties Commission

Mr. Brennan reminded that a public hearing was held in September 2008 for the proposal to designate Ambler Farm as an historic property. At that time, there were several questions raised, so various parties involved were asked for their opinions, including the Friends of Ambler Farm, the Trustees, town counsel and the Historic District Commission. All opinions have now been received, however, the 35 days have lapsed so another public hearing will have to be another public hearing held by the Board of Selectmen.

Ambler Farm is owned by the Town of Wilton and Mr. Brennan is concerned about doing something that could cause problems for the Town in the future. The Historic District and Historic Properties Commission is very thorough and has done a lot for the Town to preserve historical districts. Ambler Farm

is a property, not a district. The Friends of Ambler Farm have made a lot of improvements to the facilities. The Historical Society, the Ambler Farm Trustees and the Board of Selectmen currently have oversight of the property. The Friends don't want another group designated to make decisions on appropriateness while they are working on the white house. They can always consult the Historic District Commission when doing work on the property. Mr. Creeth added that he is interested in preserving the historic element but feels the Board should revisit the proposal when the development is completed. He is not worried about the current Board of Selectmen, but is worried about future boards. Mr. Clark agreed that it is not necessary at this time. Over the past nine years, the Friends have created what the property is today. No action was taken at this time.

3. FY '10 Board of Selectmen Budget

Mr. Dolan advised that he followed up with Mr. Bill Glass on the two Trackside budget issues that were raised by the Board of Selectmen at the last workshop meeting. One issue has been explained and the other will need to wait until the Trackside treasurer returns from vacation. He feels that these two issues will not affect the bottom line. He also advised that we do not yet know all of the revenue losses to the Town that will result from the Governor's budget.

The Board of Selectmen is required to submit their budget to the Board of Finance on March 6. The Board of Selectmen will make their final vote at their regular meeting on March 2.

C. Public Comment – None present

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Retail Alcoholic Beverages - Town Counsel Ken Bernhard has proposed a solution to the town procedure necessary after receipt of a petition and it has been accepted by the State Liquor Authority. Any petition received must request a referendum to allow alcohol sales in stores in Wilton. The referendum would then include only a yes or no vote. A petition would require 10% of the electors or approximately 1,200 signatures. A petition would have to be submitted by 9/4/09 in order to be placed on the ballot for the 11/3/09 election.

Statement High School Renovations – Mr. Brennan felt that an article in the local paper regarding the Board of Selectmen approval of the project did not reflect the due diligence that was done before the project was approved and he read a statement that he had prepared.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Mr. Creeth – No report

Mr. Clark – No report

Mr. Hoffstatter – has talked to a few of the local market owners to get their opinion about a possible ordinance to ban plastic shopping bags. Two or three troop boxes have been sent out since January. The need is ongoing and anyone wishing to help out can pick up boxes in the lobby of the Town Hall.

Addition to Agenda - Mr. Brennan moved to enter executive session to discuss a negotiations item and to invite Mr. Dolan and Ms. Taffel to attend. Motion seconded and carried. Motion entered executive session at 8:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:06 p.m. at which time the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary