

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

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Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 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: Sarah Taffel, Richard McArdle, John Savarese, approximately 25 members of public

OTHERS: Brian Shea (Bulletin)

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

FY 2010 Budget

Mr. Brennan advised that the Board of Finance voted to request a reduction in the proposed FY 10 Budgets of both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, in the amounts of \$150,000 and \$600,000, respectively. Town department heads submitted budgets that totaled 1.4% less than the current year. However, the Board of Finance is asking for additional assistance.

The Total Budget being proposed requires a 1.4% mill rate increase year over year. At the meeting last night, the Board of Finance also voted to add \$500,000 to the Pension Fund and \$50,000 to Elderly Tax Relief. Their suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for reductions are to focus on the Library, freezing salaries, the Teen Center, compensation, and the Police Department.

Mr. Brennan prepared a list of possible reductions he is recommending.

- One police officer has resigned and if not replaced, could save \$80,000 in salary and benefits. While there are contractual obligations, Chief Kulhawik feels that they can obtain an additional \$25,000 from various line items.
- A \$40,000 reduction in the Library request would bring the town's subsidy from 78% down to 74.9%.

- A \$5,000 reduction in the Teen Center funding would bring the increase down from 10% to 7%.

Mr. Clark stated that that an excellent budget had been submitted due to the request that department heads begin early to consider any possible ways to reduce spending. Mr. Creeth agreed and does not understand why the Board of Finance is asking for further reductions proportionately equal to the request for reductions to the Board of Education, when the Board of Selectmen budget request was already lower than the last year.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend to the Board of Finance a reduction to the FY 10 Board of Selectmen Budget in the amount of \$150,000 from three areas; \$105,000 from the Police Department, \$40,000 from the Library and \$5,000 from the Teen Center. Motion seconded.

Mr. Creeth stated that he does not feel this is the right way to do this, but will vote for the motion because there is little choice. The other Selectmen agreed and the motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Hoffstatter applauded his colleagues for the hard work and tough choices that had to be made.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary