

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

GUESTS: Joe Dolan, Sarah Taffel, Tom Thurkettle, Kristen Begor, David Hapke, Nancy Faesy, Ken Dartley, Michael Graupner

OTHERS: Brian Shea (Bulletin)

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

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms Bruschi, seconded and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – May 18, 2009 Regular Meeting

Gifts

- Wilton Bank gift of \$750 to the Senior Center newsletter (Corridors)
- Realty 7 gift of \$150 to the Senior Center
- Danbury Hospital gift of \$500 to the Senior Center

These gifts are much appreciated and Wilton Bank, Realty 7 and Danbury Hospital were thanked for their generosity.

B. Discussion and/or Action

Mr. Brennan moved to scramble the order of the agenda. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

1. Transfer Station Redesign and Service Improvements

Transfer station committee members, along with First Selectman Brennan - Kristen Begor, David Hapke, Nancy Faesy and Tom Thurkettle were present. The town currently pays per ton for removal of solid waste. As of 7/1/09, the town will be receiving money for all recyclables that are taken away. The objective of the transfer station committee is to promote recycling and to make the transfer station easier for resident's use. It has been proven that increasing recycling reduces solid waste.

Phase I, to be completed by 7/1/09, consisted of redesign of the facilities to create a separate recycling area with free access for residents. An informational brochure is being mailed to all households, with an access sticker for their car. There will also be newspaper articles, information on the town website, and a press conference at the transfer station. New signage will be posted at the station to direct the traffic flow. Phase II will be the installation of a new scale. Phase III will involve converting to "Green Waste" by changing the way waste is handled throughout the town. Mr. Clark, who had also worked with the transfer station committee, congratulated the committee on the wonderful job they have done on the brochure which should be very effective in getting information to the public. Mr. Brennan thanked the other committee members for the volunteer work and hours they have put into this project.

2. Elderly Tax Relief – Discussion / Plans to form a review committee

There has been a good response to the request for volunteers to serve on a review committee. Five resumes have been received to date and interviews will be arranged. Ms. Judy Zucker will be serving as chair for the committee, which will also include CFO Joe Dolan and Social Services Director Cathy Pierce.

Mr. Michael Graupner, who has submitted a resume for consideration, was present and asked to speak. He does not understand why any town employees or any members of the previous review committee should be serving again. He feels there should be an entirely new committee. He wants to know the philosophy for this tax program. We do not need another welfare program. We need to study what is going on in town in relation to the seniors and everyone else. He believes residents should have the opportunity to pay more taxes for the services they desire.

Mr. Brennan advised that the Board of Selectmen members feel there should be some continuity on a review committee for this "needs based" program. Mr. Graupner feels that the committee should look into whether it needs to continue to be "needs based"? Mr. Ken Dartley feels the committee should look into ways to keep seniors in town, which would be good fiscal

management. Mr. Graupner and Mr. Dartley were thanked for their comments.

Interviews will be held prior to the next Board of Selectmen meeting, for a seven member committee, including the three members previously mentioned.

3. Charter Commission - Timetable and Review Process

The Charter Commission will be holding a public hearing this week, June 3, at 7:30 pm in this room. The Board of Selectmen has a timeline to follow in order to get any recommended changes to the Charter on the November ballot. He urged the other Selectmen to become familiar with proposals before the 8/24 date for the draft to be presented to them.

4. FY 10 Contingency Planning

Mr. Brennan is concerned that preparing a budget for FY 11 will be as difficult as it was in FY 10. He feels it is necessary to begin working on this now in order to get ahead of the problem. The town will be dealing with major expenditure cuts that were made in FY 10 and cannot be made again and we are anticipating not having the cash reserves available that we had this year. He plans to begin preparing department heads to expect contingency planning and will be meeting with the unions and reviewing what has happened in other towns as a result of budget constraints due to the current economy. Other problems the town will be facing are lower growth in the grand list, pension liability, and state budget deficits. He would like to begin early informal discussions with representatives from the Board of Finance. The other Selectmen agreed.

5. Consideration of appointment to the Library Board of Trustees

Mr. Hevesy was available earlier this evening to speak with Selectmen who had not met him. Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Mr. Chris Hevesy to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Michael Kaelin to expire on June 30, 2010. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Consideration of appointment to the Cable Advisory Council

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Ms. Lisa Bogan as a member of the Area 9 Cable Council to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Harry Somerdyk to expire on June 30, 2009 and for a two year term to expire on June 30, 2011.

7. Consideration of appointment to the Building Board of Appeals

Mr. Clark moved to appoint Mr. Richard Tomasetti as a member of the Building Board of Appeals for an unexpired term to expire on December 1, 2013.

C. Public Comment – No public was present at this time.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Moodys – Wilton was issued a Aaa rating for the refunding bonds offering which is scheduled for tomorrow.

Recycling Agreement – Mr. Brennan met with City Carting and there are no major issues on the agreement. The authorization to execute the agreement will be on the next agenda, to be effective 7/1/09.

CFO Search – The search team is interviewing search firms and plans to identify the firm to engage by the end of the week.

Ambler Farm – Copies of the report prepared by the Friends of Ambler Farm will be distributed to the Selectmen and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Mr. Clark – The recent public hearing for public transportation was well attended and many people spoke to the need for more buses, trains, and parking. He believes that the sense of urgency was relayed to the DOT.

Mr. Hoffstatter – Coyotes are being sighted in town. The DEP maintains that the population is stable. Environmental Director Pat Sesto wrote an article in the newspaper advising residents to protect their pets, scare the coyotes away, and keep any food items inside where they will not attract animals.

Ms. Bruschi – The recent party at Trackside was attended by approximately 350 teens, mostly from Wilton, and was very successful.

She has been researching the proposal to join the Westport-Weston Health District. This will be on a future agenda for discussion.

D. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary