

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
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 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: CFO Joe Dolan, Robert Russell, Carol Russell, Louise Herot, Fred Herot, Paul Burnham, Toni Lee, Michael Kaelin, Marilyn Gould, Alice Ayers, Karen Birk, Dr. Gary Richards, Richard Dubow, John Kalamarides

OTHERS: Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Karen O'Connor (Villager)

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. (immediately 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:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – July 7, 2009 Special Meeting (correction made to Mr. Hofstatter's report regarding elderly tax relief).

Gifts

- Donation of \$100 to CERT by Russell Boekenheide of New Hampshire on behalf of Jack Majewsky

Mr. Brennan expressed appreciation for the generous donation by Mr. Boekenheide.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Resolution – Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Mr. Clark moved to approve that William F. Brennan, First Selectman, may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and that William F. Brennan, as First Selectman and CEO of the Town of Wilton, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Wilton and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

2. Charter – Review next steps, timeline, etc.
The required public hearing was held immediately preceding this meeting. One comment was heard from Board of Education Chairman Karen Birck on behalf of the BOE members. They have received a legal opinion that references in §C-30A and in §C-30E that give the Board of Finance authority to assert line item control over the Board of Education budget “*to the extent the law permits*”, She felt this language was ineffective and therefore inappropriate. Mr. Creeth does not believe there is a conflict with state law here since the proposed change is irrelevant unless state law is changed. The structure would be in place should the laws be changed at some time in the future. Mr. Clark agreed.

Mr. Kaelin advised that this proposed change is not intended simply for future changes in state law but for the possibility that there are currently items in the BOE budget that are not required to be there and therefore could fall under Board of Finance line item authority to the extent the law permits at this time.

It was noted that the changes Ms. Birck suggests are based on the Charter Commission Draft report, dated 6/19/09. Since that time, the Board of Selectmen has considered Mr. Dolan’s modified version of Article VII. Mr. Brennan suggested leaving this section as is for now and allowing time to consider the BOE counsel’s opinion. The Charter Commission will be meeting this week to discuss recommendations of the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen will discuss again on 8/3/09.

3. Town facilities - maintenance plans
Mr. Brennan pointed out that many maintenance projects have been completed during the past 3.5 years. He cited a number of examples:
 - Exterior work and painting on the Town Hall plus gutter replacement
 - Carpeting replacement

- Offices and restrooms painted
- Town Clerk's office refurnished and carpeted
- Conference room painted and chairs replaced
- Rock wall in front of Town Hall replaced
- Overgrown garden in front of Town Hall replaced with minimal maintenance plantings.
- Annex – replaced carpeting in halls and conference room. Also, refurbished all chairs and furniture. Next step is to re-organize Building Dept. and P&Z areas, paint offices, and replace carpet.
- New AC system in Police Department
- Energy efficient lighting in FD and PD
- Repainted shed next to PD

However, more work is needed, as maintenance is a continuing process.

The Town also owns several residential structures. The lease for Marvin Tavern has been terminated and is now fully under the Town's responsibility for maintenance which is long overdue. This is a historic building with two tenants. The rental income will cover the necessary repairs. The small house at 415 Danbury Road is another historic building that has deteriorated but must be preserved. The tenant was relocated and now the building needs to be assessed to determine our options. It has been determined that investing money to bring the building back into condition for tenancy would not show a return for eight years or more. Mr. Creeth suggests getting out of the real estate business and considering selling the property. It was decided that the Selectmen will do a walk-through of the house in the near future before any decisions are considered. An architect and a structural engineer are also making an evaluation.

C. Public Comment – None noted.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Contingency Planning – Mr. Brennan discussed this with department heads at the 7/9/09 Operating Committee meeting. He requested that each department begin planning as was done last year at this time. It would be irresponsible not to be planning ahead when the economy is not expected to recover quickly. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Dolan will meet with each department early in August to go over ways that expenditures might be able to be reduced and what the impact on services would be to accomplish decreases. In September, a Tri-Board meeting could be held, as was done last year.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Ms. Bruschi – No report

Mr. Hoffstatter – Thanked Leigh Anne Floyd for troop boxes.

Mr. Clark – No report

Mr. Creeth – No report

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary