

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
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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: Ken Bernhard, Bob Nerney, Joe Dolan

OTHERS: Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Christian Camerota (Patch.com), Kara O'Connor (Villager),

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

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Ms. Bruschi, the consent agenda as approved as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting August 17, 2009

Tax Refunds

- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated August 20, 2009
- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated August 20, 2009
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated August 31, 2009
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated September 3, 2009
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated September 3, 2009

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Litigation update by Kenneth Bernhard, Town Counsel

Mr. Brennan introduced Mr. Bernhard by saying that he had invited the Town Counsel to give the Members of the Board an update on current and on-going litigation in Town. Mr. Bernhard said that the bulk of litigation is around tax appeals. This occurs when someone feels that their assessment is too high and takes the case to Superior Court after they have gone through the Board of Assessment Appeals and haven't been able to reach a resolution.

Mr. Bernhard said that often the parties settle when they weigh the amount of the tax against the cost of litigation.

First Selectman Brennan said that he wanted the Board members to see from Mr. Bernhard's report the amount of litigation going on, the costs involved and the continual progress being made. Mr. Bernhard added that the Town should be very pleased at the small amount of litigation going on, one of the lowest levels since he has been Town Counsel.

2. Planning Conservation and Development

Mr. Brennan said that this was nearly a two-year project and asked that the Board review the Plan and send their comments to him and he would consolidate them and present them to Mr. Nerney and Planning & Zoning. The Board of Selectmen will be voting to endorse the Plan at their next meeting on September 21, 2009 prior to the POCD public hearing scheduled for October 5, 2009.

Mr. Clark suggested that the Plan reflect uses for the land previously set aside for "Super 7". He would also suggest including a more pro-active approach to mitigation of flood hazards.

Mr. Hoffstatter also has concerns about the land set aside for "Super 7" and he suggests addressing future water uses and recourse for those who have wells that are impacted by development around them.

Ms. Bruschi said while she feels the Plan is adequately conceived she wonders about the cost of some of the suggestions, particularly during these economic times. Mr. Nerney explained that this is a ten-year Plan and the Commission recognizes they will need to prioritize, but he added how positive the response has been from the public and how creative some of their ideas have been. Mr. Creeth suggested having incremental reports on the progress of the Plan once it was approved. Mr. Nerney said that Wilton has a history of implementing its plans, and thanked everyone for their support.

3. Charter – Summary and Full Text

First Selectman Brennan wanted to explain to everyone why the full text of the revised Charter was printed in the paper. He said that State Statute (7-191) requires that the full text be published in the local paper 30 days after approval of the proposed revised Charter.

4. Progress Report – Renovations to Town Facilities

Chairman Brennan said that he wanted to brief the Board on two Town properties that need a lot of work:

- a) 415 Danbury Road. An architect and engineer have been assigned to assess the structural problems and the cost to fix it correctly. They will submit the costs to the First Selectman who will share them with the Board. Chairman Brennan said that he would like all the members of the Board of Selectmen, if possible, to accompany him on a field trip to see the property.
- b) Marvin Tavern. Extensive work needs to be done on this property too. Currently there are two tenants living there, but one will be moving out on the expiration of the current lease. An architect and engineer will assess this property as well.

C. Public Comment – No Public Present

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Elderly Tax Relief Forum – Sept. 10, 2009 at 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM in Town Hall Room B. Would like as many of the Board of Selectman to attend as possible.

Tri-Board Meeting – Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education meeting planned for 9/23 at 7:30 PM at Comstock. Objective is to assess the 2011 budget early.

Wilton Center – Plans for addition of park benches to Wilton Center. This will be a public/private venture and the Tree Committee will be involved to coordinate appropriate locations for future park bench placements.

Administration – November 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen meeting will be cancelled. If a meeting is needed for a critical purpose, one will be scheduled.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Mr. Creeth – Met with Senator Dodd regarding getting stimulus money for Wilton Commons. He feels it will be difficult but might be easier if Wilton had a Housing Authority.

Mr. Clark – Attended the public meeting with Congressman Jim Himes and was impressed by how many Wiltonians attended and the level of questions that were raised.

Mr. Hoffstatter - Thanked Mr. Creeth and others that went to meet with Senator Dodd on behalf of Wilton Commons.

Ms. Bruschi – No report.

- E. Executive Session. – Mr. Brennan moved to enter executive session to approve the selection of a new Chief Financial Officer for the Town, replacing Joe Dolan who is retiring. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Meeting entered executive session at 8:50 p.m.

1. A MOTION was made by First Selectman Brennan to appoint Sandra Dennies as Chief Financial Officer for the Town of Wilton. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

- F. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Mariana Corrado
Recording Secretary