

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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: Joe Dolan, Sarah Taffel, Pat Sesto, Kevin Quinlan, Marilyn Gould, Sandra Dennies

OTHERS: Joan Lounds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Cammerota (patch.com)

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 as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – September 8, 2009 Regular Meeting, as amended. Mr. Clark and Mr. Hoffstatter asked to have their remarks regarding the POCD included in the minutes.

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds as per Tax Collector's memorandum dated September 14, 2009

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Approval of 2009 Deer Plan

Ms. Pat Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs was present with the Deer Committee report summarizing the results of the 2008 Deer Management program. As was seen in other towns, there was a reduction in the number of deer harvested. This is thought to be explained by a drastic drop in the amount of acorns in the woods, encouraging deer to go foraging in abutting residential properties. Ms. Sesto then outlined the Deer Committee's plans to repeat the controlled hunt of this past year, with some alterations. This year, the deer population in Wilton is estimated to be 60-65 per square mile. A population of 8-10 p/sm would be necessary to have an effect on the Lyme disease cycle.

Mr. Clark noted that only New York state is able to send the deer meat to food banks so that it is not wasted but Connecticut food banks cannot benefit at this time.

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the 2009 Deer Plan (attached to minutes). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

2. Report on 415 Danbury Road property

Architect Kevin Quinlan prepared a history of this town-owned historic dwelling that was built before 1774 and is known in historical records as the Ebenezer Bennett House. The building has severely deteriorated and his estimate to make the building habitable again would be \$110,000 to \$124,000, which would require a very long rental payback.

Mr. Quinlan also provided a plan for implementing structural repairs that would stabilize the condition of the house. Mr. Brennan will be meeting with Mr. Rob Sanders, Chairman of the Council on Public Facilities tomorrow to look at the building and discuss the recommendations. Mr. Quinlan feels that the building would require, at least, patching of holes before this winter season.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Brennan will combine the written comments from each of the Selectmen and forward these recommendations to the P&Z Commission.

Mr. Brennan moved to endorse the Draft Plan of Conservation and Development submitted to the Board of Selectmen and to request that the P&Z Commission consider the comments of the Board of Selectmen when finalizing the Plan. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

4. Consideration of Adjustments to Rents of Several Town Owned Properties

Ms. Sarah Taffel reported on the four town owned properties that are currently being leased. In keeping with the Board of Selectmen's earlier commitment to bring the rents gradually closer to market rates, she is proposing to increase the three current month-to-month tenancies by 10%, effective 10/1/09, and to renew the two-year lease with the Friends of Ambler Farm for the yellow house and to increase the rent by 5%, effective on October 1 of each of the two years.

Mr. Clark stated that he would like to consider putting a property on New Street up for sale to raise money to work on Marvin Tavern and the 415 Danbury Road house. Others disagreed.

Ms. Bruschi moved to approve the proposed rent increases for town-owned rental properties. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

5. 2010 Employee Holiday Schedule

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the 2010 Employee Holiday Schedule, as presented. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Consideration of Appointment to Elderly Tax Relief Committee

Ms. Bruschi moved to appoint Assessor David Lisowski to the Elderly Tax Relief Committee, effective 10/1/09, to replace CFO Joe Dolan who is retiring on 9/30/09. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

C. Public Comment – None noted

D. Reports

1. First Selectman

Tri Board Meeting – The meeting between the BOS, BOF and BOE will be held on Wednesday, 9/23/09 at the Comstock Building. The unaudited year-end figures for FY'09 indicate that all town departments were under budget and have instituted cost controls. The schools are also coming in under budget and under estimates.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Ms. Bruschi – After touring the high school renovation project, she advises that a lot has been accomplished in 10 weeks. She feels that the Building Process document that was created several years ago helped to streamline this project.

Mr. Creeth – The Energy Commission is pleased that the high school renovation project is producing cost savings from energy conservation control measures that are being installed.

He attended the public forum on elderly tax relief, which was very “spirited”. There is some confusion as to the charge to update a needs based program being too narrow. He feels that is a question of interpretation. We do have a finite budget, but there is a lot of sentiment that those who have lived in town for a long time deserve some sort of tax credit. Seniors are an important part of the population and many may feel that they don’t get much return for their tax dollars. However, the tax relief dollars appropriated are quite large and should be shown as a separate line item in the budget to make that more clear. Better communications on this appropriation were also recommended.

Mr. Hoffstatter – Attended the latest Trackside meeting. The students are becoming more involved and it is felt that the events will soon be breaking even or making a small profit. It was decided that Mr. Hoffstatter will replace Mr. Creeth as Selectman liaison to Trackside.

Mr. Clark – Thanked the P&R Commission for producing an operating manual and acknowledged the hard work that was necessary to do so. Mr. Brennan added that the P&R Commission will be coming to a BOS meeting to discuss the manual.

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary