

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: Selectman@Wiltonct.org



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
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Harold Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

GUESTS: Sandra Dennies (CFO), Lynne Vanderslice, Andy Forzheimer and Jim Meinhold (Board of Finance members), several others in support of the individual budgets.

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. CFO Sandy Dennies advised that there is a change in format from previous years. Costs that were formerly grouped by specific function (insurance, pension and FICA) are now listed in each department budget for the employees in that department to give a better indication of the costs of each department.

Most town department budgets are essentially flat. One significant change is in capital requests which includes enhanced integrated technology costs being spread across all departments. A 15% increase in group insurance costs was estimated but costs have not yet been finalized.

Police Department

Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby and Police Commission members Matt Mason, Mark Ketley and Chris Weldon were present. Mr. Mason reported that the FY 2011 budget request submitted for the Police Department is approximately \$100,000 less than the FY 2010 budget. When Chief Kulhawik retired, it opened up a series of in house promotions and there was a slight re-structuring including a Sgt. position in the Detective Division being eliminated and replaced with an officer, saving \$7,000 per year. Another officer is currently part of an FBI program whereby the town is reimbursed for his salary.

Chief Lombardo advised that the Police Department receives approximately 18,000 calls for service and 13,000 other type calls each year. Seventy percent of their budget is for contractual expenses that they cannot control. In addition, an increased police presence is required on Route 7 as a deterrent to increased speeds now that the four lanes have opened. One major variance in their budget is a significant increase for Education. A collective bargaining mandate requires a 75% tuition and 100% textbook reimbursement to all officers wishing to continue their education. A poll of officers has indicated that there are several who wish to participate, and an estimated \$53,000 increase has been included in the budget request.

The past two years, the cost of vehicle fuel and vehicle capital has been subsidized by the Route 7 construction project. Obviously this will not continue at the same rate.

The separate budgets for Central Dispatch and for Animal Control do not show increases for FY 2011.

Chief Lombardi and Deputy Chief Crosby were commended on the well prepared informational budget request.

Library Association

Executive Director Kathy Leeds, Whitney Janeway (VP), and Greg Janson (Treasurer) were present along with several other members of the Board of Trustees and supporters of the Library. Mr. Janeway read a statement by Trustees President Judy Higby who could not be present. The Library is grateful for the town support. They understand the economic climate and have worked diligently to increase revenue and reduce expenses, however a flat budget will reduce services as costs continue to rise. They will be reducing the hours for the part-time employees and did not fill an open position.

Ms. Leeds advised that usage continues to increase with circulation and visitor counts up by 9%. Computer and reference use is up 18%. Employees will receive a 2% salary increase in the current year and no increase next year. To contain costs, they have moved employees to a less expensive health savings account with a high deductible and changed the employees retirement plan to a defined contribution plan.

The Board members and Ms. Leeds were thanked for a well-prepared budget and the many supporters were thanked for attending.

Ambler Farm

Ms. Ann Bell was present as President of Friends of Ambler Farm. They prepare a list of specific goals for each year. In the next year, they plan to improve and expand program offerings for adults and to provide more environmental, ecological and sustainability programs; expand fund raising, and to secure funding for the Raymond Ambler House.

Rentals at the property have increased and they hope to increase this revenue even more in the coming year. The town portion of the budget covers basic utilities and maintenance.

Work is progressing on the Raymond-Ambler House and future bonding will be required for Phase III of the project. Phase I was demolition, Phase II was for structural stabilization and Phase II will cover the finish work inside the house. They are requesting \$250,000 in 2011 and \$250,000 in 2012. Funding will also come from grants and donations. If bonding is not approved, Phase III will be delayed and the electrical, plumbing and heat will not be done at this time. The building will be secure but cannot be used.

Ms. Bell was thanked for her report and for attending this evening.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary
(minutes taken from video recording)