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238 Danbury Road  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010  
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

**GUESTS:** Sandra Dennies (CFO), Warren Serenbetz, Lynn Vanderslice, Jim Meinhold, Gail Lavielle (Board of Finance), Christian Camerota (Patch)

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

**Social Services and Senior Center**

Social Services Director Cathy Pierce and Senior Activities Coordinator Elizabeth Doty were present. Ms. Pierce advised that the clients they are seeing are dealing with foreclosure, unemployment, unsuccessful mortgage loan modifications, loss of health insurance, and mental health issues due to the stress of dealing with these problems. In the past 12 months, they have had 57 self-referrals (that include 61 children) in addition to their normal referrals for Youth Services and Seniors. These are all new families looking to improve their cash flow until they find employment. Surrounding towns are being equally affected. They are submitting a flat budget for FY 2011.

Two very important lines in the Social Services budget include a \$10,000 request for medical assistance and \$13,000 for membership/dues. Membership in NEON, Homes with Hope and RSVP are vital to Wilton residents in need. Mr. Clark expressed that Social Services is at the forefront in helping families in this town who are hurting and he supports their requests.

The Senior Center has had 100 more visits than this time last year, over 5,400. The programs they offer to seniors focus on increasing alertness, physical health, mental health and fostering

social interaction. Having the Senior Center as part of Social Services provides easy access for seniors in need.

Ms. Pierce and Ms. Doty were thanked for the presentation and for managing to hold the budget line without seriously affected their valuable services.

### **EMS/Ambulance**

WVAC President Ron Hitter gave a presentation of the services provided by the non-profit organization. The Corps consists of 47 volunteer certified EMTs plus 2 paid full time and 2 paid part time EMTs for coverage during the day. Evenings and weekends are covered entirely by volunteers. Over 18,000 volunteer hours represents a great savings to the town. In addition, Wilton and Weston have a contract with Norwalk Hospital to provide an on-duty 24/7 paramedic.

During the past calendar year, they have had 1,380 calls, an 8.6% increase over the prior year. Thirty-five percent of the calls are to the local nursing homes.

Wilton is out of space for emergency vehicles, fire and ambulance, which have to be in a heated building due to medical supplies and drugs. In 2008, the Corps spent \$35,000 from its own funds to prepare a Quonset hut to garage the vehicles. This building is very costly to heat, even to the required 52°. This is the reason for the increase in building fuel that is being requested.

Ambulances are replaced every four years, using funds that are charged for services. Maintenance of the vehicles is important, not only for the calls, but also to hold the trade-in value of the vehicles.

Mr. Hitter was thanked for his presentation and for preparing a budget that is slightly less than the current fiscal year.

### **Trackside**

Mr. Bill Glass, Director of Trackside was present along with Treasurer Larry Coke, members of the staff, the Board of Directors and the Teen Governing Board. Mr. Glass stated that a lot of effort went into the preparation of the budget, and no increase is being requesting over the current year. During the past calendar year, there were over 8,000 teen visits, a 25% increase over the prior year.

The annual appeal for funds was very successful. The goals for this year are to increase revenue, meet or exceed fundraising goals, and decrease operating expenses. Two of the teens present spoke about their experiences at Trackside. Mr. Coke stated that he is impressed with the leadership by the teens. Mr. Glass pointed out that there has also been an increase in adult volunteerism.

## **Nursing and Home Care**

Ms. Sharon Bradley, President and CEO was present along with members of the Board of Directors. Nursing and Home Care provides professional nursing in the schools, including the private schools (Our Lady of Fatima and Montessori). This year school nurses handled 152,324 visits from 4,270 students. They also provide mandated health services such as vision, hearing and scoliosis screening in the schools.

They provide public health nursing including vaccinations for seasonal flu and the H1N1 influenza. They provide home visits for those with no insurance coverage, allowing them to stay in the home and not be hospitalized (300 this past year). They also provide unfunded home visits that have been approved by Social Services for those requiring stabilization in an emergency situation.

N&HC is requesting an increase of \$40,000 for FY 2011. They understand the difficult situation and tried to decrease expenses wherever possible. More than half of this increase is related to health insurance, with an 18% increase. It is very difficult to obtain quotes from insurance companies for a small group, especially with the experiences in their group.

Ms. Bradley was thanked for her presentation and asked to look at the budget to see if there are any further opportunities for reduction.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jan Andras  
Recording Secretary  
(minutes taken from video recording)