

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Harold E. Clark
Second Selectman

Alice L. Ayers

Richard Creeth

Susan A. Bruschi

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2007

Minutes

- Present: William F. Brennan, Harold E. Clark, Alice L. Ayers, Richard F. Creeth, Susan A. Bruschi
- Others: Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works; Sarah Taffel, Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Administrative Services
- Guests: David Waters, Cathy Welling, Kathy Leeds, Dan Mahony, Carol Becker, Jim Saxe, Louise Herot, Wilton Library Association; Joe Brenner, Judy Robinson, Laura Payne, residents; Jared Newman, Wilton Villager; Brian Shea, Wilton Bulletin

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

A. Consent Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda with the following correction to the Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Brennan.

Minutes

Page 2, Paragraph 3, 2nd Sentence: Mr. Dolan replied that the Board of Finance added funds to the pension line (not lien) item and also made two slight reductions to the Board of Finance line item and the OPEB line item.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Consideration of approving the sale of the 1987 Elgin Sweeper to Grasso Construction in the amount of \$4,150.00 as outlined in Tom Thurkettle's memorandum dated April 25, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and carried 5-0 to approve the sale of the 1987 Elgin Sweeper to Grasso Construction in the amount of \$4,150.00 as outlined in Tom Thurkettle's memorandum dated April 25, 2007.

2. Consideration of approving the submission of a grant to purchase dive rescue equipment for the Wilton Dive Team as outlined in Chief Milositz's memorandum dated April 25, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Bruschi and carried 5-0 to approve the submission of a grant to purchase dive rescue equipment for the Wilton Dive Team as outlined in Chief Milositz's memorandum dated April 25, 2007.

3. Consideration of approving a resolution authorizing the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, to enter into and execute a Historic District Preservation Grant with the Connecticut State Library.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried 5-0 to approve a resolution authorizing the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, to enter into and execute a Historic District Preservation Grant with the Connecticut State Library.

4. Consideration of approving the submission of two Connecticut Highway Safety Program grant applications to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Section as outlined in Lt. Wakeman's memorandum dated May 1, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and carried 5-0 to approve the submission of two Connecticut Highway Safety Program grant applications to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Section as outlined in Lt. Wakeman's memorandum dated May 1, 2007.

5. Presentation of a blight ordinance proposed by resident Laura Payne.

Laura Payne proposed that Wilton institute a blight ordinance and submitted pictures of properties around Wilton to demonstrate the extent of the problems. A blight ordinance would provide a legal basis for the town to regulate property appearances. Under Connecticut General Statutes 7-148, municipalities may create a blight ordinance that impose fines between \$10 and \$100 per day. Property assessments may also be reduced under an ordinance. Blighted properties bring down the value of all the properties surrounding it. Ms. Payne pointed out the potential safety risks associated with problems of blight, such as firefighters being unable to exit the house because of garbage blocking a door.

A discussion ensued regarding property rights, fairness and the inclusion of abandoned cars and boats in the ordinance. First Selectman Brennan said he would direct G. Kenneth Bernhard, Town Counsel, to start working on a draft of the ordinance.

6. Report from the Selectmen's representatives on the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Brennan welcomed the Trustees.

Quarterly Report

1. Flood Damage – Six inches of water in new basement which resulted in the loss of approximately thirty percent of the books slated for the book sale. The elevator and HVAC system were also impacted by the flooding.
2. Fund Raising – Men's Night Out and the Book Sale were successes.
3. Participation – There are 103 programs, circulation is up 23% and 21 outside groups rented meeting rooms.
4. June 10th is the date set for the Annual Meeting
5. June 23rd -- Blue Hill Troupe is scheduled for a benefit performance for the Library.
6. Dave Waters will be assuming a leadership position on the Board of Trustees. Louise Herot will become a Library Board of Trustees and cease to be a Board of Selectmen representative.

Mr. Brennan thanked Ms. Herot. He also stated that since the Library is the fourth largest department in the Selectmen's budget he would like to have Operations Management meetings twice a year to keep abreast of the Library's activities.

Ms. Herot presented the variance report. She commented that \$16,000 was projected for the Book Sale before the flood. The cost of utilities and maintaining the grounds had been an unknown cost factor due to the expansion. Kathy Leeds added that they are struggling with the needs of the older part of the Library. Cathy Welling said the roof and the HVAC system in the older part of the Library need addressing.

Mr. Brennan told Jim Saxe that he would like to get the next four meetings on their respective calendars. Mr. Saxe said he would arrange the scheduling.

7. Discussion of creating an Energy Efficiency and Technology Committee.

The Selectmen would like to form a group of both technical and financial volunteers to analyze energy issues including conservation and renewable energy technology for the town. Mr. Brennan asked the Selectmen if they had any thoughts on whether the group should be known as a committee or a task force. A discussion followed, but no decision was made as to how to name the group. Ms. Ayers suggested they talk to CCM and other towns such as Westport.

Mr. Brennan asked Ms. Bruschi if she would speak to Karen Birck, BOE Chair to start them thinking about representation from the BOE to this group.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Brennan provided status reports on the activities of the Independent Ethics Committee and the Elderly Tax Relief Committee. They have both completed their studies, issued recommendations and are scheduled to deliver their results to the Board of Selectmen at the May 21st and June 4th meetings, respectively.

There have been a number of anti-Semitic crimes against some private property in Wilton. The Town will be conducting a Press Conference to denounce this behavior. In addition, the Anti-defamation League is planning to offer a reward leading to apprehension of the offender(s).

2. Selectmen's Reports

Mr. Clark would like to explore what has happened to the natural culvert under the Rail Road that was built in 1956. He believes something in the terrain has changed since he had three feet of water in his basement after the last storm. Ms. Ayers suggested he talk to Norwalk River Watershed to see if anything has changed. Mr. Creeth said it was a 100 year storm.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to adjourn to executive session at 9:00 PM. The executive session was attended by the Board of Selectmen and Sarah Taffel for the purposes of discussing the status of collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the Fire and Teamsters Unions. The executive session concluded at 9:45 PM.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers
Recording Secretary