

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Marilyn C. Gould
Second Selectman

Alice L. Ayers

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

November 20, 2006

MINUTES

Present: William F. Brennan, Marilyn C. Gould, Richard F. Creeth, Harold E. Clark (Alice L. Ayers notified intended absence)

Others: Sarah Taffel, Director, Human Resources, Labor Relations & Administrative Services;
Joe Dolan, Chief Financial Officer

Guests: Dick Kilbride, resident; Jeff Yates, The Bulletin; Jeremy Soulliere, Wilton Villager

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

A. Consent Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Creeth, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 3-0-1 (Ms. Gould abstained) to approve the consent agenda:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – November 6, 2006
- Board of Selectmen's Executive Meeting – November 6, 2006

Tax Refunds

- Real estate and motor vehicle tax refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memorandum dated November 9, 2006.

Gifts

- Sixty dollars (\$60.00) from Stuart and Jane Koenigsberg to the Fire Department Gift Fund.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Discussion on proposed charge to the Selectmen's ad-hoc committee on ethics.

Mr. Brennan reported that the membership of the ad-hoc committee will be finalized soon and announced at the December 4th Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Brennan distributed and reviewed a draft charge (attached).

Mr. Creeth commented that those serving on the committee should be people of good judgment and sound common sense. He added that an emphasis should be placed on the delineation of responsibilities and timeliness of responses.

Mr. Brennan stated that the Selectmen should be prepared to submit their recommendations to the ad-hoc committee in December so that the committee can begin its work. He posed sample issues such as:

Should the membership of the Council on Ethics include the appointment of alternates?

Ms. Gould commented that alternates may not be appropriate since the members need to be up to date on the issues.

Should determination of a perception be part of the code?

Ms. Gould noted that perception is a subjective term. Mr. Clark added that the current code says if in doubt, file a statement with the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Brennan suggested that the Selectmen send a list of recommendations to him so that they can be compiled and reviewed at the December 4th meeting.

2. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Richard Paukner from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective November 19, 2006.

Mr. Brennan commented that Mr. Paukner has been a very active member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for many years. Mr. Creeth commended Mr. Paukner on his years of dedication and volunteerism.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 4-0 to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Richard Paukner from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective November 19, 2006.

C. Public Comment

Mr. Kilbride voiced his opinion on the following:

- There is no proper tax relief for the senior citizens in Wilton.
Mr. Brennan responded that the tax relief committee reviews the program every few years and that the committee will be reinstated in the near future. He added that at the time of the last revision, Wilton had one of the best tax relief programs in the state.
- The surplus in last year's financial results is indicative that the town overtaxed the taxpayers. How will the funds be re-distributed?
Mr. Brennan stated that a major segment of the surplus was from the Board of Education (low medical claims and hiring that did not take place) and excellent tax

collection. He explained that such instances are not the norm and will probably be a one time occurrence. Mr. Dolan commented that Mr. Kilbride should ask the Board of Finance about the plans for the surplus funds.

- The Town should be better financial planners and should institute a capital reserve against its 5 or 10 year capital plan.
Mr. Brennan stated that this suggestion has been discussed many times before and that he personally, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance respectfully disagrees with the capital reserve idea.
- There is a lack of concern for the safety on the Sturges Road/Liberty Street paving project.
Mr. Brennan advised that DPW had been alerted when he first called and agreed to discuss this issue again with Mr. Thurkettle.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Highway Strategic Grant

The Police Department has received a highway strategic grant for \$13,875 to support the enforcement of driving under the influence during the holiday season.

Gas Contract

The Town has entered into a new contract for gas. The calendar year contract price is now \$1.9759 (\$2.18 last year) on 5,000 gallons or more.

Public Information Session

The DOT Route 7 public information session will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at Cider Mill cafeteria. All residents are invited to attend this meeting.

2. Selectman's Report

Wilton Commons

Mr. Creeth reported that the fundraising efforts are going well and that he is optimistic about the future of Wilton Commons. He suggested that the Wilton Commons committee report to the Selectmen in the near future.

Ambler Farm STEAP Grant

Ms. Gould reported that members of the Ambler Farm committee met with State representatives to review the requirements of receiving the grant money.

Fields Committee

Mr. Clark reported that drainage issues are being addressed. He noted that the visitor stands are installed and the home bleacher construction will begin soon.

E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Gould and carried 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lund
Recording Secretary