

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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First Selectman

Marilyn C. Gould
Second Selectman

Alice L. Ayers

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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

December 4, 2006

MINUTES

- Present: William F. Brennan, Marilyn C. Gould, Alice L. Ayers, Richard F. Creeth, Harold E. Clark
- Others: Sarah Taffel, Director, Human Resources, Labor Relations & Administrative Services; Joe Dolan, Chief Financial Officer; Pat Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Ed Kulhawik, Police Chief; Mike Lombardo, Police Captain
- Guests: Faye Stilley, Cora Martin, Diane Gorman, WOOF; David Hapke, Kate Throckmorton, Patrice Gillespie, Kristen Begor, Naomi Dempsey, Conservation Commission; Chris Giovino, Parks and Recreation Commission; Bob Kelso, Dick Dubow, Lee Wilson, Board of Finance; Toni Lee, DTC Nominating Chairman; Steve Hudspeth, Al Alper, residents; Brian Shea, 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 Ms. Gould, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Ayers abstained) to approve the consent agenda:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – November 20, 2006

Tax Refunds

- Sewer Assessment and motor vehicle tax refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memorandum dated November 30, 2006.

Gifts

- Various office furniture from an anonymous donor.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Discussion of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission's response on a proposed location for a dog park.

Mr. Brennan gave a six month review of the dog park proposal. He explained that a public information session was held in July. The Selectmen then asked the Parks and Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission to answer questions that were raised at the public information session. Mr. Brennan commented that the Conservation Commission was against the dog park at Allen's Meadows because of its potential impact on the habitat in the grasslands. He added that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that a comprehensive plan for Allen's Meadow be completed and suggested that the Conway School study include designating a location for a dog park at Allen's Meadows. Mr. Brennan reminded the Board that at its November 6th meeting, the Board of Selectmen asked the two Commissions to have a joint meeting to identify a location for a dog park.

Mr. Hapke, speaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission, explained that the two Commissions reviewed the ad hoc committee's dog park criteria and added additional criteria to use when considering possible locations. He reported that the Commissions recommend three sites – Allen's Meadows "east", Old Wolfpit Road, and School Road. Mr. Hapke noted that there is no ideal location for the dog park and that each site has its trade offs. Mr. Giovino added that the three recommended sites had the fewest negatives.

Ms. Gould commented that the Allen's Meadows east site would not be available for another three to four years as Tilcon is using it as a staging area for the Route 7 widening project. Mr. Hapke responded that its availability was the only negative to the site.

Ms. Ayers explained that two of the options are on State land and that the donors have stated that they will not contribute to the dog park if it is placed on State land because of the potential to be taken away. She noted that Allen's Meadows east has the same ecology as Allen's Meadows west. Ms. Gould added that the Allen's Meadows east area has not been disturbed while the west side has already been.

Ms. Ayers explained that the ad hoc committee reviewed in depth the Old Wolfpit Road site and that the committee felt the area was too isolated. In addition, a portion would be on State land.

Mr. Brennan reviewed the School Road option and remarked that the area would require significant land clearing. He added that the site may be needed in the future for town or school building purposes.

Mr. Brennan discussed the Old Wolfpit Road site. He acknowledged that the bridge would require some maintenance (it is structurally sound). Mr. Brennan explained that the site has potential for the dog park because there are no environmental issues, the commuter lot could be used for parking, the closest residence is over 500 feet away and the land is 70% owned by the Town.

Mr. Clark added that the site may look isolated because of overgrown vegetation and questioned if the addition of lights would reduce the concept of it being isolated.

Ms. Gould voiced her concern of the safety of women dog owners using the dog park. Mr. Hapke added that once the invasive species are removed, the area would be visible from Wolfpit Road.

Ms. Dempsey mentioned that maintenance at the Wolfpit Road site would be more costly than the other two sites.

Ms. Ayers suggested that the WOOF members and the ad-hoc dog committee take another look at the Old Wolfpit Road site.

Mr. Clark asked if any other area of Allen's Meadows west could be used for a dog park. Ms. Sesto responded that the area was reviewed in depth and it was determined that the area is consumed by playing fields except for the north area.

A discussion on the habitats of Allen's Meadows ensued. Mr. Clark questioned if a mitigation strategy would help the impact on the various species if the dog park was to be placed at Allen's Meadows west.

Mr. Creeth mentioned that there is an enormous amount of support for a dog park and that it would be a shame if a compromise on the location couldn't be reached.

Mr. Brennan summed up the discussion and asked that the ad hoc dog park committee review the Old Wolfpit site and the Conservation Commission discuss a possible mitigation plan.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to scramble the agenda.

8. Consideration of approving Crowley Ford's bid (\$97,219.00) for police vehicles as recommended in Chief Kulhawik's memorandum dated November 22.

Chief Kulhawik reported that four bids were received and that Crowley Ford was the lowest bidder. He explained that the bid is for six new vehicles (two Explorers and four Crown Victorians).

Chief Kulhawik stated that due to the Route 7 construction project, one vehicle originally marked to be traded during the budget process will be held and will be used exclusively for construction duty.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Creeth and unanimously carried to approve Crowley Ford's bid (\$97,219.00) for police vehicles as recommended in Chief Kulhawik's memorandum dated November 22.

2. Discussion on Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB).

Mr. Brennan referred to Mr. Kelso memorandum and attachments.

Mr. Kelso stated that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued statements 43 and 45 which require governments to disclose OPEB's as liabilities. He explained that the Board of Finance commissioned AON to do an analysis of the liability and they reported that as of July 1, 2005 Wilton's OPEB was \$7.9 million.

Mr. Kelso reported that the Town could fund the liability three ways:

1. Pay as you basis
2. Add to the general fund
3. Establish a trust fund

Mr. Kelso recommended that the Board of Selectmen create a trust fund, naming a member of the Boards of Finance, Education and Selectmen as trustees. He suggested that Investment Committee manage this fund in addition to the pension fund.

Mr. Dolan mentioned that in 2009, Town will be required to book the liability.

It was the consensus of the Board to have a draft ordinance written. Mr. Dolan agreed to begin work on the ordinance.

3. Wilton Code on Ethics:

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

- o Appointment of members to Selectmen's Independent Committee on Ethics:

Mr. Brennan recommended that Steve Hudspeth, John Ingersoll, Peter Kaskell, Roger Valkenburg and Judith Zucker be appointed to the Selectmen's Independent Committee on Ethics. He commented that these five individuals have knowledge of town governance.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to appoint Steve Hudspeth, John Ingersoll, Peter Kaskell, Roger Valkenburg and Judith Zucker to the Selectmen's Independent Committee on Ethics.

- o Consideration of approving the charge to the Selectmen's Independent Committee on Ethics.

Ms. Ayers suggested that item 7 (c) read "relationship to the Board of Selectmen and First Selectman." The Board agreed with Ms. Ayers's suggested amendment.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to approve the charge as amended. (charge attached)

- Review of Selectmen’s recommendations on the Wilton Code to the Selectmen’s Independent Committee on Ethics.

Mr. Brennan read the recommendations (attached).

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to forward the Selectmen’s recommendations on the Wilton Code to the Selectmen’s Independent Committee on Ethics.

4. Interview schedule for Tierney O’Hearn (nominee for Historic Property and Historic Districts Commission, alternate), Elizabeth Mason and Amy Jefferies (nominees for the Commission on Social Services).

Ms. Lund agreed to schedule the interviews.

5. Consideration of reappointing the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Term End</u>
Mark Ketley	Police Commission	12/01/08
Jon Baronowski	SWRPA	12/01/08
Richard McCarty	Fire Commission	12/01/08
Janet Foster	Historic District and Historic Properties Commission	12/01/11
Marian Wulffleff	Historic District and Historic Properties Commission	12/01/11
Karen Myers	Inland Wetlands Commission	12/01/09
Rob Sanders	Council on Public Facilities	12/01/10
Nicholas Lee	Conservation Commission	12/01/09
Kristen Begor	Conservation Commission	12/01/09

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to reappoint the above named individuals.

6. Consideration of appointing Al Alper to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy created by Richard Paukner. Said term to expire November 6, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Gould and unanimously carried to appoint Al Alper to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy created by Richard Paukner. Said term to expire November 6, 2007.

7. Consideration of appointing John Comiskey to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by Al Alper’s appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Said term to expire November 6, 2007.

The Selectmen expressed interest in interviewing Mr. Comiskey. Ms. Lund agreed to set up the interviews.

C. Public Comment

No public comment.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Elderly Tax Relief

The Elderly Tax Relief Committee will be reconstituted early next year. Ms. Gould stressed the importance of having new members to serve on the committee. Mr. Brennan asked the Selectmen to submit suggested names for new members to him by Thursday, December 7.

Trackside

Trackside's financial statement was distributed. Mr. Brennan asked Mr. Creeth to review the document and comment on it at the December 18th Selectmen's meeting.

2. Selectman's Report

Fields Committee

Mr. Clark stated that the Fields Committee would like to make a report at the December 18th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Police Fund

Mr. Clark reported that the money in the police fund is now being invested in CD's.

Kick for Nick

Mr. Creeth reported that Ken Dartley has organized "Kick for Nick". In honor of Nick Madaras, citizens are being asked to donate a soccer ball to be sent over to children in Iraq. A net has been set up in front of the American Legion for the soccer balls.

E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Ms. Gould, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lund
Recording Secretary