

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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

Email to: Bill.Brennan@Wiltonct.org



William F. Brennan  
*First Selectman*

Harold E. Clark  
*Second Selectman*

Ted W. Hoffstatter

Richard J. Dubow

James A. Saxe

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014  
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Bill Brennan, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard Dubow, James Saxe

**ABSENT:** Hal Clark

**GUESTS:** Tom Therkettle, Bruce Hampson, Ken Bernhard-Town Counsel, Sandy Dennies, Representatives of Yankee Gas - Carl Frattini, Director of the Gas Expansion Program, Chris Luca, Project Manager, Beth Maldonado, Senior Counsel for Yankee Gas and Lissette Andino, Customer Relations, Jacqueline Rochester

**OTHERS:** 2 Members of the Press

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

**A. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Mr. Dubow, seconded by Mr. Saxe, the consent agenda was approved as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – June 16, 2014

**B. Discussion and/or Action**

**1. Town of Wilton/Yankee Gas – Consideration of approval of Product Development Agreement (PDA) re: Natural Gas Expansion**

Mr. Brennan read a statement (attached) regarding a Product Development Agreement with Yankee Gas to expand natural gas distribution in Wilton. Town Counsel Ken Bernhard reviewed minor changes that were made to the agreement and Carl Frattini and Senior Counsel Beth Maldonado of Yankee answered questions regarding certain provisions in the agreement. Discussion regarding risk to Town of Wilton was reviewed. Yankee Gas representatives and Town Counsel explained that Yankee Gas was the investor and that there was very little risk, as no financial contribution by the Town was required. However, the Town would benefit substantially by estimated fuel savings of

\$450,000/year for the foreseeable future. Motion made by Mr. Brennan for authorization to sign acceptance of Product Development Agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Dubow, unanimously carried.

2. Grant Award to Connect to the Nutmeg Network - \$33,500

Sandy Dennies gave a brief review of the Grant Award from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. Ms. Dennies stated that the Town will now have the same Internet connection as the Wilton High School district, which will provide a significant savings versus the current system. Resolution needed authorizing First Selectman Brennan to accept the grant. Motion made by Dick Dubow moving the Board of Selectmen to authorize First Selectman William F. Brennan to Execute an agreement with the State of Connecticut accepting the 2014 Grant to Connect to the Nutmeg Network. Motion seconded by Jim Saxe, unanimously carried.

3. Welcome Ron Kanterman, Town of Wilton Fire Chief

Mr. Brennan introduced Interim Fire Chief Ron Kanterman. Mr. Kanterman thanked the Board of Selectman for giving him the opportunity to practice his craft in the Town of Wilton. Mr. Kanterman stated that is primary goal in the position is to keep his men safe and bring make sure they get everything they need to help get the job done while making sure the Town is taken care of. Mr. Kanterman stated that other goals are on the prevention side. He stated that he has met with one principal and is scheduled to meet with the new Superintendent of Schools and wants to get the kids fired up as well as their parents on fire prevention and safety.

4. Status of Capital Projects

- Miller Driscoll – On July 21, 2014 the Building Committee and architects are to present to the Board of Selectmen final proposal and recommendations. Board of Finance has been invited to attend this meeting to see the full presentation to allow for question and answers. Plan will be to bring the proposal to Special Town Meeting on September 23, 2014. Prior to this date, presentations will be made to various community organizations to review the proposal prior to the Special Town Meeting.
- High School and Middle Brook School projects completed. Final warranty walk- through done.
- Paving Schedule for the next couple of weeks will include - Olmstead Hill Road, Sear Hill Road, Musket Ridge Road, Hunting Ridge Lane, Kent Road, Drum Hill Road and the Fire Station driveway park area.

5. Appointments/Reappointments

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Libby Bufano as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the position vacated by John Comiskey upon her resignation as an alternate. Andrea Preston was appointed as an alternate on

the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the position vacated by Libby Bufano. Motion seconded by Dick Dubow, unanimously carried.

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint John Kalamarides as the Board of Finance representative on the Miller Driscoll Building Committee. Motion seconded by Dick Dubow, unanimously carried.

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint John K. Wilson as a representative on the Economic Development Commission. Motion seconded by Dick Dubow, unanimously carried.

6. Miscellaneous Other Business

Space Utilization Committee – Strategic committee to address the space issues for the Town to meet in near future.

Board of Selectmen received an email from Marissa Lowthert alleging some statements made by Town Counsel Ken Bernhard were not accurate representations of Ms. Lowthert. Mr. Bernhard will respond at the regular scheduled Board of Selectmen to be held on July 21, 2014.

C. Public Comment – None.

D. Reports

First Selectman Report

Summer Meeting schedule for Board of Selectman:

- July 21, 2014
- August 4, 2014 (cancelled); August 18, 2014
- September 2, 2014; September 22, 2014 and September 23, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

Appeal to the public regarding a program to place teak benches in the Village and at Merwin Meadows. Citizens have asked how to make a contribution. Citizens can contact Pat Sesto in the Environmental Affairs Department. Contribution requires \$1600 to cover the cost of the bench. Town will take care of installation. A plaque will be placed on the bench with inscription requested by the donor, e.g. to honor an individual or deceased family member, etc.

Request Town Clerk to give update for compliance with regard to Board and Commissions swearing in and returning signed Code of Ethics.

Selectmen Reports:

Mr. Dubow – None

Mr. Hoffstatter – Wilton Go Green instrumental in procuring Bright Ideas Grant for Yellow House at Ambler Farm. Wilton Go Green Festival will be held again next

year as long as townspeople are willing to help. Looking for townspeople to join Wilton go Green. Go Green will be concentrating on recycling this year, helping the town and businesses to accomplish that. There will be a quarterly newsletter rolling out to those who have given their e-mail addresses.

Mr. Saxe – None

E. Adjournment – Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Rochester', followed by a large, stylized flourish or initial.

Jacqueline Rochester, Recording Secretary



## **STATEMENT**

### **Town of Wilton/Yankee Gas – Natural Gas Distribution Expansion**

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that the Town of Wilton and Yankee Gas have successfully finalized a Project Development Agreement (PDA) to expand natural gas distribution in Wilton. Construction is scheduled to start the end of July and be completed in November.

A little background – in June 2011, the Town of Wilton and Yankee Gas started discussions to enable the expansion of natural gas into Wilton Center and to various municipal buildings, specifically Middlebrook and Cider Mill Schools, Comstock Community Center and Wilton High School. There were numerous obstacles to overcome including regulatory issues, logistical hurdles, and timing problems. Both sides, however, were determined to provide our community with an alternative energy source for both economic and environmental reasons.

The oil fired boilers at the Middlebrook School, the Cider Mill School, and the Comstock Center are in need of replacement and this is the ideal time to convert their heating systems to run on less expensive natural gas. In May, at the annual town meeting, the voters approved bonded capital appropriations of \$1,970,400 to purchase and install new furnaces. Once they are connected, it is projected that our community will save between \$450K and \$500K per year on the Town's energy bills.

While initially hampered by antiquated regulatory restrictions, which were updated in the last legislative session, Yankee Gas assigned a senior management team to work out the details of drafting plans, getting permits and easements from numerous authorities, securing contractors' bids, and coordinating with the Town for an efficient and speedy construction schedule. Since March, there have been weekly progress meetings between Yankee Gas and Town officials, including Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works, Bob Nerney, Director Planning and Land Use Management, Ken Bernhard, Town Counsel, Dick Dubow, Board of Selectmen, Bruce Hampson, Chairman of the Energy Commission, and me.

Starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, in an effort to avoid congestion and to work as quickly as possible, two priority segments have been scheduled for an intensive initial effort, while people are away and the schools are closed:

1. Wilton Village – RT33/Center Street to the Condo area on River Road
2. K. Lilley Way – Corner of School Road and Cider Mill School to Wilton High School

Yankee Gas will be permitted to have two or more construction teams working 12 hours on weekdays, between 7:00AM – 7:00PM, and will be permitted to do work on the Saturdays of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Notwithstanding the good efforts of both sides to minimize disruption, it is important for all citizens to realize that during the construction period commencing in late July and continuing through November, there will be temporary periods of traffic congestion, periodic delays, and unavoidable inconvenience.

In order for people to plan ahead, route maps, and to the extent possible, construction schedules will be posted on the Town's website and also be available and displayed at the Town Hall and the Annex. Police officers and flaggers will be on construction sites to assist in keeping traffic moving and disruption to a minimum. The Town will provide project updates to keep people informed and indicate where construction crews will be operating.

In summary, The Town will soon have an alternate energy source available to it for use by municipal, commercial and residential properties. For a few months it will be a disruptive undertaking, but in a short while, Wilton's gas expansion project will establish the community as a leader under the State's Comprehensive Energy Strategy Program, and most important, the Town will have beneficial energy options to serve our community for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I respectfully request every citizen's understanding and patience during the scheduled Yankee Gas project construction period.

Thank you,

William F. Brennan  
First Selectman