

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Lori A. Bufano
Second Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Selectman

Deborah A. McFadden
Selectwoman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday March 2, 2020
Meeting Room B, Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden, Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Chris Burney, Jennifer Fascitelli, Anne Kelly-Lenz

OTHERS: Members of the Press and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

B. Executive Session

- Discuss Contract Negotiations

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and invite Sarah Taffel, Anne Kelly-Lenz and Chris Burney. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

Out of executive session at 7:47pm

C. Public Comment

Ms. McFadden noted that the Suffrage event held this past weekend at the Historical Society was terrific and well attended.

D. Consent Agenda

Ms. Vanderslice thanked the Kovak Foundation for their gift. Motion made by Mr. Tartell seconded by Ms. Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows and amending the BoS February 18, 2020 Minutes to add the date to the first page:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – February 18, 2020
- Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – February 28, 2020

Gifts

- Kovak Foundation (Stanley Kovak) – Wilton Food Bank - \$1000.00

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. FY 2021 Transfer Station Budget

Chris Burney, Director Public Works reviewed Transfer Station operations, issues, the budget and budget assumptions. (see attached presentation).

2. FY2021 Budget Discussion

Ms. Vanderslice began the discussion of FY2021 budget requests by providing an update on the plan to move to the State Partnership Plan and the associated \$600,000 in cost avoidance and savings. She indicated confidence in the \$600,000, but the change is still being considered by the union membership. As such, she recommended the budget request be adjusted to reflect only the \$300,000 of cost avoidance. Ms. Vanderslice also recommended the following: Trackside grant request be reduced by \$32,667 in keeping with the plan adopted in 2017 to reduce the grant. Wilton Library Association grant request be reduced by \$25,000 to reflect the results of the Library's FY2019 fundraising and in keeping with the idea behind the FY2019 challenge grant. Reallocate some of those reductions to the Environmental Affairs budget in the form of \$30,000 to fund further clearing adjacent the Norwalk River along River Road and improvement to trails throughout Wilton.

Ms. McFadden expressed objections to the size of the reduction of the Trackside grant.

After discussion, Ms. McFadden noted the lack of support for her objection. There was unanimous agreement for the other adjustments.

3. Vote on FY2021 Budget Submission

Motion made by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Bufano to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance a FY2021 Budget totaling \$33,911,800. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Proposed Wilton Parks and Recreation Field Usage Policy

Ms. Vanderslice noted that Steve Pierce of the Parks & Recreation department submitted a revised field usage policy that incorporated the change suggested at a previous BoS meeting. After review and discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to approve the revised Wilton Parks and Recreation Field Usage Policy. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

5. FY2020 Financial Report

Ms. Kelly-Lenz provided a report on forecasted FY2020 budget savings. (see attached).

6. Final Grand List – October 1, 2019

Ms. Kelly-Lenz reviewed the October 1, 2019 Final Grand List, which grew by .78%. (see attached letter from the Town Assessor).

7. Appointments

- Economic Development Commission

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell to appoint Toni Lee to the Economic Development Commission. Motion seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

- General Discussion

Ms. McFadden shared her concerns with the length of time required to fill vacancies due to delays in candidate submissions by one or more of the town committees. The current BoS procedures call for candidate applications to be received within six weeks of the vacancy announcement, though the practice has been to waive the requirement when one or more of the town committee indicates they will be submitting a candidate after the deadline. Members agreed to submit recommendations for revisions to the procedures in advance of the next meeting. A review of the current vacancies was held with agreement as to whether appointments were to be made or placed on hold, subject to further review.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

- Ms. Vanderslice noted Health Director Barry Bogle and other town employees are taking appropriate actions and staying in contact with State officials regarding the coronavirus. Residents should refer to the CDC website and may sign up for e-alerts to receive information released by the Town.
- Ms. Vanderslice noted the board is still waiting for additional feedback regarding the ordinances proposed by Wilton Go Green, meaning inclusion on the ATM ballot is unlikely.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Tartell
No Report

Ms. Bufano
No Report.

Mr. Cole
No Report.

Ms. McFadden
Ms. McFadden noted the Zero Waste Faire that is coming up on March 29, 2020 from 11am-4pm at the Field House.

G. Public Comment

None

H. Executive Session

- Legal Update

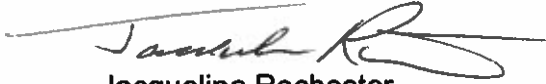
Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:04pm to provide an update on current litigation. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session at 10:13pm.

I. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:13pm.
Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

Next Meeting – March 16, 2020



Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

- **The Town's Focus Related to Waste Has Changed**
- **An Emphasis on Recycling is No Longer Enough**
- **Reducing the Amount of Waste and Encouraging Reuse** is the now the focus of our programming and our Budget
 - Our budget recommendations are move towards **greater accountability by those who generate the waste**

Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget

What Happens to Your Bag of Trash?

BAG OF TRASH

Commercial Trash Hauler Pick Up

Dispose at Wilton or another Transfer Station

Resident Drop Off

Dispose at Wilton or other Towns' Transfer Station

Transfer Station

Mixed Solid Waste Hauled by town employee to

Mixed recyclables hauled by town employee to

City Carting-Norwalk

Mixed Solid Waste Hauled to

City Carting-Norwalk

Clean recyclables sold and
hauled or shipped

Dirty or non recyclables
hauled to

Wheelabrator -- Bridgeport

Waste to Energy
Ash hauled to

Processing Plants

Wheelabrator

Waste to Energy Facility
Ash hauled to

Landfill --Putnam, CT

Landfill --Putnam, CT

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

Why hasn't the transfer station fund been self-sustaining in recent years?

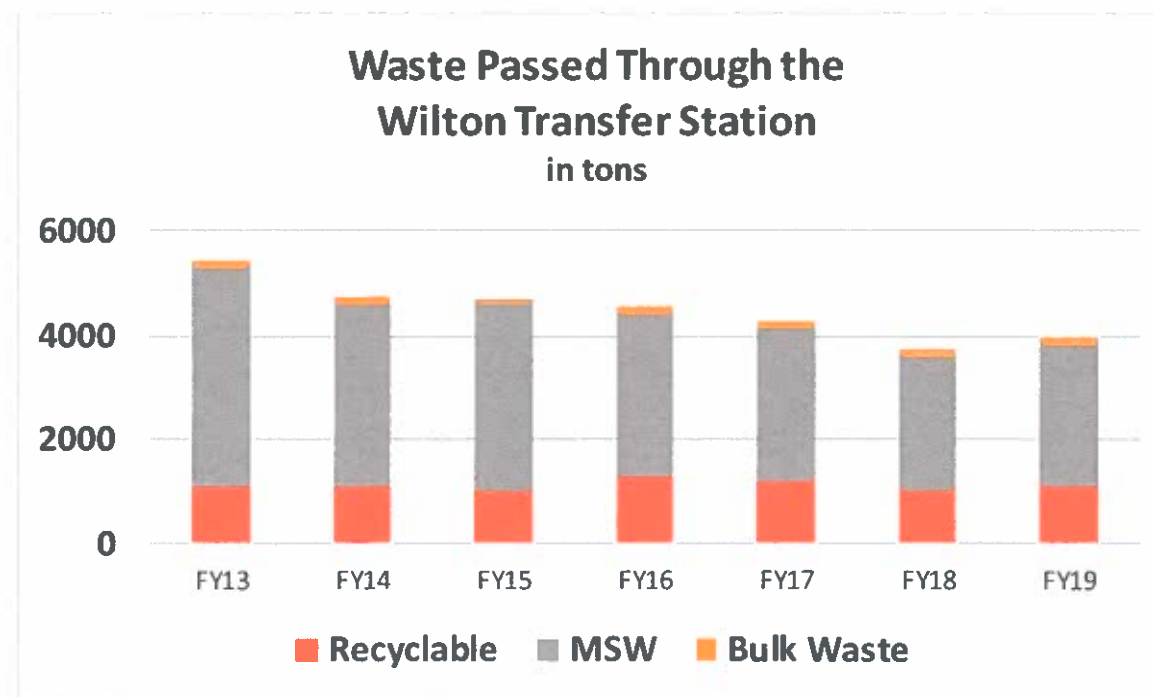
- ***A continuing decline in revenue that is otherwise necessary to absorb fixed operating costs***
 - **Consolidation of smaller haulers, resulted in less haulers using the transfer station and a related loss in solid waste volume**
 - **9 haulers in 2013**
 - **5 haulers in 2020**
 - **Increased recycling resulted in reduced solid waste volume. Growth in recyclables revenue wasn't sufficient to offset and absorb fixed costs**
 - **A 2012 increase in the tipping fee meant to offset losses in tipping fee revenue resulted in Wilton being one of the more expense transfer stations for haulers**
 - **The resale market for most recyclable materials collapsed and eliminated that revenue source**

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

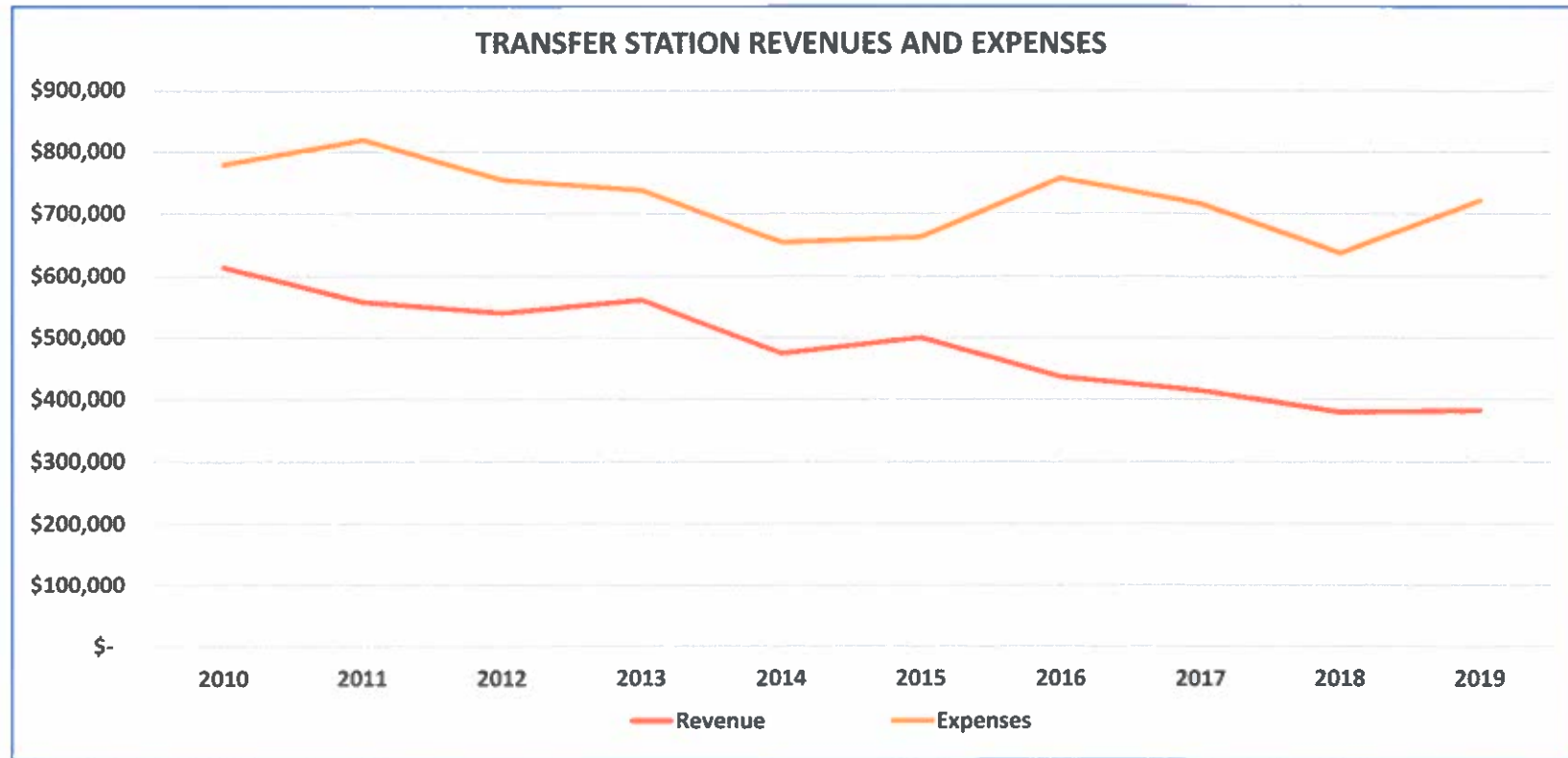
Why hasn't the transfer station fund been able to be self-sustaining?

- ***Increases in costs***
 - New cost to dispose of recyclables, **\$65 per ton or approximately \$70,000 per year**
 - **Previous 5-year contract with City Carting** expired, resulting in an **increased per ton rate** to dispose solid waste
 - Annual increases in labor and other fixed costs
 - Years of no pre-funding for equipment replacements

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**



**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**



**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**



**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

Without changes, losses and the resulting subsidy will increase

- **Further consolidation of haulers** is likely as costs have increased industry-wide
- The Town's **current roll-off truck**, which is used to transport mixed solid waste to Norwalk and recyclables to Stamford, is near the **end of its useful life** and requires **replacement at a cost of over \$200,000**

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

Options to reduce costs and the resulting subsidy

- **Regionalization**
 - **Discussions with Weston** were suspended, but have picked up
 - Awaiting **WestCOG funded study** of regionalized transfer stations, utilizing Wilton and Weston
- **Change tipping fees**
 - **Commercial hauler solid waste tipping fees no longer cover the cost to dispose of solid waste**
 - **Subsidizing disposal** is contrary to reduce reuse focus
 - **Share the cost to dispose of recyclables by charging a tipping fee and a resident fee**
 - Charging a fee could result in an increase in reusables as away to avoid the fee
 - Charging a fee could result in an increase of can and bottle redemption, which avoids the transfer station
 - Charging a fee raises awareness of the issues with single-use materials
 - The fee on recyclable would be significantly less than solid waste and therefore wouldn't create a disincentive
- **Charge a transfer station permit fee**
- **Modernize operations** resulting in revenue and cost efficiencies

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

The proposed budget reflects the following recommendations

- **Increased and new tipping fees as follows**
 - **Commercial hauler solid waste tipping fee equal to FY2021 cost to dispose**
 - **Commercial hauler recyclables fee of \$30 per ton or 46% of our current cost to dispose**
 - **Resident recyclables fee of \$1 per bag, an equivalent of the hauler rate**
- **No change in resident solid waste per bag fees**
 - **\$4.50 per bag regular fee is equal to FY2021 estimated cost to dispose**
 - **\$3.50 per bag senior fee is a 20% plus discount**
- **No cost for transfer station permits**
- **Efforts to modernizing operations**
- **Resulting subsidy of \$455,000, \$80,000 more than the FY 2020 budgeted subsidy**
- **Users fund 52% of the costs, the Town (property taxes) fund 48%**

**Transfer Station
FY 2021 Budget**

FY2020 Operating Results Forecasted to be Unfavorable to Budget

- *Higher than anticipated disposal fees*
- *Budgeted regionalization savings, not realized*
- *Additional subsidy of \$70,000 required, requesting transfer from general fund savings*

FY 20 Estimated Savings BOS Budget

June 2020 Estimated savings	<u>503,000.00</u>
Parking at Schenck's Island	(45,000.00)
Transfer Station	(70,000.00)
Ambler	(50,000.00)
Fire Truck	(137,000.00)
Net Savings FY 2020	<u>201,000.00</u>

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR
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238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

February 28, 2019

Lynne Vanderslice
First Selectwoman
Wilton Town Hall
238 Danbury Rd
Wilton, CT 06897

RE: October 1, 2019 Taxable Grand List Reports
(Before Board of Assessment Appeals)

Dear First Selectwoman Vanderslice,

The Assessor's Office has finalized the October 1, 2019 Grand List. The 2019 Grand List resulted in an overall increase of 0.78% from last year. This increase is due to a few new residential houses and permitted remodeling/additions but mainly due to some commercial growth we've seen over the past year. There was a new addition and parking garage completed at 77 Danbury Road as well as the completion of Sunrise of Wilton which is a new assisted living facility located at 211 Danbury Rd.

Below are the final 2019 Grand List totals, a comparison between the 2018 and 2019 Grand Lists as well as the Wilton 2019 top ten taxpayers.

October 1, 2019 Grand List

	Number of Accts	Gross Assessment	Total Exemptions	Net Assessment
Real Estate Totals	6,987	4,275,881,567	407,092,490	3,868,789,077
Personal Property	1,268	319,816,680	106,980,482	212,836,198
Motor Vehicle	15,900	204,545,505	1,107,685	203,437,820
Grand Totals	24,155	4,800,243,752	515,180,657	4,285,063,095

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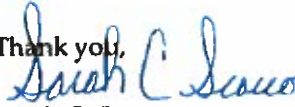
Comparison of 2018 Grand List & 2019 Grand List

(Net Assessments Prior to the Board of Assessment Appeals)				
	2018 Net Assessment	2019 Net Assessment	Amount of Change	% of Change
Real Estate Totals	3,839,270,770	3,868,789,077	29,518,307	0.77%
Personal Property	209,518,750	212,836,198	3,317,448	1.58%
Motor Vehicle	202,945,040	203,437,820	492,780	0.24%
Grand Totals	4,251,734,560	4,285,063,095	33,328,535	0.78%

Wilton 2019 Top Ten Taxpayers

Net Assessments are compilation of assets real, personal and motor vehicle	
Taxpayer	Net Assessment
CT Light & Power Company	102,045,220
Teachers Insurance & Annuity Assoc	63,600,110
ASML US LLC	59,957,590
Avalonbay Communities Inc	52,524,280
Wilton Campus 1691 LLC	29,022,980
Wilton 50 LLC	19,896,610
Wilton 40 LLC	18,485,740
Wilton River Park 1688 LLC	16,791,460
Wilton Retirement Housing LLC	16,708,260
Sunrise of Wilton Prop Co LLC	15,564,270

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,

Sarah C. Scacco
Assessor, CCMAII

CC: Anne Kelly-Lenz, Chief Financial Officer;
Jeffrey Rutishauser, Chairman of the Board of Finance