

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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

Email to: Bill.Brennan@Wiltonct.org



William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: First Selectman Bill Brennan, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

ABSENT: Second Selectman Susan Bruschi

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies, Sarah Taffel, Chief Paul Milositz, Dep. Chief Mark Amatrudo, Tom Thurkettle, Dr. Gary Richards, Ken Post, Malcolm Whyte, Attorney Christopher Hodgson, Attorney Daniel Hunsburger, four members of the Wilton Fire Department, Jan Andras

OTHERS: Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Tom Evans (Villager), Craig Donofrio (Patch), Ken Zimmerman (Daily Wilton)

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

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Mr. Brennan, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows: (Mr. Clark abstained from voting on the minutes as he was not present on 6/6 and Mr. Creeth had not yet arrived.)

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of 07/05/11

Gifts

- Donation of \$75 to the Senior Center in memory of Jane Estes from Janet and Edward MacEwen

The MacEwen's were thanked for their generosity.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Review Draft of Charge to the Council on Public Facilities

Malcolm Whyte, CPF Chairman was present and advised that the CPF members had approved the drafted Charge and forwarded it to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Brennan offered a few small changes. Mr. Clark moved to approve the Charge to the Council on Public Facilities. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

2. Miller Driscoll School – Capital Project - Status

Dr. Gary Richards advised that for the past three years, a steering committee has been doing due diligence on a proposed project for the Miller Driscoll complex, with very strong cooperation from the planning & zoning office, the fire marshal and the DPW. In March 2011, the Board of Education approved the need to make modifications to the school to accommodate pre-K – 2nd grade special needs. The committee still needs to research reimbursement possibilities from Hartford. The steering committee will now be going back to the Board of Education to give a full presentation on their updated recommendations. They will then meet with the CPF and the Board of Selectmen.

3. Economic Development – Current Research Activities

Mr. Brennan advised that he met with Rudy Marconi, Ridgefield First Selectman, and Natalie Ketcham, Redding First Selectman who are planning to apply for a TOD (Transportation Oriented Development) Grant for fund a study on further development and alternate housing along Rts. 102 and 107. Mr. Brennan agreed to write a letter of support for alternative housing which is needed. However, Wilton will not join the two towns in apply for the grant as we have already applied for a TOD grant for the pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Clark has received information from Rocky Hill and Mr. Creeth has received information from Windsor. A special meeting will be called to discuss information received by all four of the Selectmen.

4. Miscellaneous other business

Road Paving – Mr. Brennan advised that he is receiving e-mails from residents concerned with the condition of roads. He read a statement (see attached). Mr. Thurkettle stated that the DPW is working on paving the worst sections of roads in order to stretch the paving funds as far as possible this year. Work is being done on

the following roads: Millstone, Wilton Woods, Cannon, Powder Horn Hill, Honey Hill, Rivergate, Deer Run, Grumman, Kent, Seir Hill, Musket Ridge, Borglum, Old Huckleberry and Bald Hill.

Yankee Gas – Yankee Gas is currently seeking easements for the pipe from various property owners along the planned route which takes time and is holding up work for now, but we are hopeful it will be resolved soon.

C. Public Comment: None noted

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report : No report
2. Selectmen Reports

Ms. Hoffstatter: Trackside continues to see a lot of activity.

Mr. Clark: No report

Mr. Creeth: Just returned from the UK where supermarkets sell "everlast" bags, which are made of plastic and when they wear out, the customer is given a replacement. These bags are very inexpensive. Also, suggests that an effort is made to educate the community about idling cars. He has witnessed cars left idling while the driver runs in to a store for coffee.

E. Fire Department Grievance

The union has filed a grievance regarding the implementation of the recent exam for promotion to Lieutenant. This step in the process requires the Board of Selectmen to hear the grievance and either agree with the union or deny the grievance which can then go to arbitration. Attorney Daniel Hunsberger then spoke on behalf of the union and Attorney Christopher Hodgson spoken on behalf of the Town. At this time, everyone left the meeting room to allow the Selectmen to deliberate.

F. Deliberation on Fire Department Grievance

Mr. Brennan moved to enter executive session to deliberate on the Fire Department Grievance. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. Meeting entered executive session at 9:26 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:40 p.m. at which time a vote was taken. Motion to

sustain the Grievance unanimously failed. Motion to deny the Grievance unanimously carried.

G. Adjournment: Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

attachment

“Due to the very severe winter last year, we currently have a large number of deteriorated roads throughout Wilton. We do not have enough funds to fix all the problems. Therefore, DPW has devised a priority plan to deal with the highest priority bad roads. We cannot satisfy everyone. It is an impossibility with the budgeted paving funds. We are dealing with the worst roads first and paving the worst sections, not the entire road - to stretch our paving dollars. We are telling everybody the same thing and there are plenty of emails to us on this subject from various parts of the town!

Here are the numbers: Asphalt two years ago was \$70.00/ton. It is now \$98.00/ton or +40%. (State contract price) The paving budget was increased from \$600M - \$650M over the same period or + 8.3%. Therefore, less miles of road are able to be repaired! For info, we have 128 miles of Town roads to maintain in Wilton.

When we had a public information meeting on the bridge replacement plans, I indicated that it was our intent to go forward with a special capital appropriation in the next budget cycle to get additional dollars to make the necessary repairs and additional paving that is required to bring our roads back to reasonable conditions. When we finish paving this year, we will reassess our roads again and pull together a plan that will detail the extent of road repairs and paving that needs to be done and the estimated cost. We will then determine a program to go forward with which might involve a special one year capital appropriation or a multi-year program. It is too early to indicate anything specific at this time, but we are determined to make the repairs that are required and I am building support for a special program with the various boards involved, as well as the community.”

Our DPW department has assessed road conditions across the town. The worst road sections are being repaved on a priority basis. After these roads are repaved, the next level of road conditions will be addressed and additional paving will take place until our budgeted funds are exhausted. DPW will be repaving two thirds of Bald Hill Rd. The balance will be repaved at a later date and as explained, that date is relative to road repaving and repair activity throughout the town, as well as available funds. The conditions on the lower section of Bald Hill Rd. are known by DPW and there are plans to repair pot holes and patch deteriorated areas. Please be assured it is on DPW's list for repairs. This supplemental activity is being planned for a number of other roads with similar conditions. On a personal note, I sincerely wish we could completely repave all the roads that are deteriorated, but it is simply not possible.

Our DPW personnel are very experienced, having been in this business for many years. They have made their assessments, which are focused on making equitable repairs to as many roads as possible given the current level of allocated funds. That is why I believe it will be essential to have a special capital appropriation to fund the balance of required road improvements throughout our town. At this point, it is too early to speculate on the composition of this program or its estimated cost, but I assume it will be a referendum item to be approved at next year's annual meeting. You and your neighbors' future support of this program will be most appreciated.