

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 November 2, 2020**  
**Held Electronically**

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

**GUESTS:** BoE Members. BoF Members, CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz, Director Parks & Recreation Steve, Chair P&R Commission Anna Marie Bilella, John Macken Parks & Recreation Commission member, Josh Atkinson of Stantec, Tom Hammerberg of Stantec

**A. Call to Order**

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm with Debbie Low calling the BoE meeting to order at 7:08pm as she had noticed the BoE meeting internally within the school district.

**B. Public Comment**

None

Ms. Vanderslice asked for motion to move the Consent Agenda to after Discussion and/or Action. Motion moved by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

**C. Discussion and/or Action**

**1. Discussion with BoE and BoF regarding FY2021 and FY2022**

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the attached PowerPoint presentation with the last slide reviewed by Superintendent Kevin Smith and BoE Chair Debbie Low. She noted FY2021 is forecasted to end the year favorable to budget and detailed uncertainties the town may face in FY2022. Superintendent Smith noted the BoE used savings from FY20 to pre-purchase some items for FY21 and those expenses will be restored to the FY22 budget. The BoE is forecasted to request up to \$810,000 of additional funding from the BoF before the end of this year for COVID related expenses not covered in the current budget. Ms. Vanderslice noted the FY2021 BoS budget was favorable because of the change from self-insured to the state benefit plan for medical. BoF Chair Jeff Rutishauser noted that Superintendent Smith, CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz, BoS & BoE have done an outstanding job during COVID. He noted budget guidance will be discussed at the next BoF meeting. Discussion and questions followed.

BoE members left the meeting at 7:49pm.

2. Stadium Track Replacement – Steve Pierce  
Steve Pierce and Stantec consultants Josh Atkinson-Head Designer, and Tom Hammerberg-Landscape Architect, presented the proposal for the track replacement. Mr. Pierce, Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Macken and WPS AD Chris McDougal served as the project committee. Mr. Pierce noted after reviewing different tracks, the committee, supported by the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended a Beynon 300 track and the engagement of a single qualified certified track installer for the entire project. He discussed the benefits of the recommendations. The Beynon 300 track has been designed to the International Amateur Athletic Foundation (IAAF) standards. Discussion, questions and comments from BoF, BoE, Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Hammerberg of Stantec, Anna Marie Bilella and John Macken of the P&R Commission followed.

The BOS and BOF will take up the subject of the track at a future meeting. Under Executive Order S7, both boards can approve bonding for the project. A Town Meeting is not required.

Unrelated, Mr. Pierce noted Parks and Recreation hosted a drive thru Halloween Hootenanny. Candy was provided to approximately 400.

BOF members left the meeting at 8:37pm.

3. Senior and Individuals with Disabilities Tax Relief  
Ms. Vanderslice shared that the Commission on Social Services was not able to undertake a review of tax relief. They noted the size of their commission as the reason. Ms. Vanderslice suggested the review be performed by a subcommittee of the BoS. Ms. McFadden moved a motion for Ms. Bufano and Mr. Tartell to serve as the co-chairs of a subcommittee, with others to be added, if needed. Motion seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0. Ms. Vanderslice suggested their first meeting should be with Town Assessor Sarah Scacco.
4. COVID Update  
Ms. Vanderslice noted that the Governor rolled the state back to Phase 2.1. Noted 9 new COVID cases today, spread across age groups. Ms. Vanderslice encouraged citizens to be more diligent. Ms. Bufano spoke to the impact on hospitals she is seeing in her professional capacity. Ms. Vanderslice noted that Norwalk Hospital and Danbury Hospital are not allowing visitors.
5. Possible Appointments – Public Safety Commissions  
Motion made by Ms. Vanderslice to appoint Adrienne Reedy to the vacancy on the Police Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Motion made by Ms. Vanderslice to appoint Terrie Schwartz to the Fire Commission to fill vacancy left by Mr. Tartell. Motion seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

#### D. Consent Agenda

Motion moved by Ms. Bufano seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows amending the Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes from October 20, 2020 - the last sentence under item 3: Correspondence from Millstone Farm should read "It was suggested that the Conservation Commission and Mike Conklin look into and then report back to the BoS":



- Minutes
  - Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Executive Session – October 20, 2020
  - Board of Selectmen Meeting – October 20, 2020
- Refunds
  - As per Tax Collector's Memo dated November 1, 2020
- Gifts
  - Headdeen Gift Fund to Improve Wilton Town Forest

Julie Doan - \$100.00	Henry & Katherine Anderson - 100.00
Miner Family Trust - \$100.00	Lauren Durst - \$50.00
Harold & Dorothy Baer - \$50.00	Robert Kenyon - \$125.00
Wendy Woolf & Alexander Bartek - \$200.00	Carolyn Troise - \$100.00
Charles & Munira Kingdollar - \$100.00	Linda Schmidt - \$100.00
General Reinsurance Corp. - \$500.00	Carolyn Durst - \$100.00

#### E. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectman
  - Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt  
Ms. Vanderslice noted that there were 69 entries for the Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt. Winners are: Elvin Nunes, Noah Levy and Matt Bell.
  - Election Reminders  
Ms. Vanderslice reminded all of Election Day tomorrow 11/3/2020. Polls open from 6am -8pm. Town Hall & Annex employees to work remotely.
  - Noted that there is a Special BoS Meeting on November 9, 2020 for interviews

#### 2. Selectmen

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted she had no update on her work as the Energy Commission cancelled their October Meeting. She noted Veterans Day and remembrance for veterans in town both living and those that have passed.

Mr. Tartell.

Mr. Tartell noted he attended a presentation mentioned at last BoS Meeting on the Impact of Discrimination in Housing given by Erin Boggs who is the Executive Director of the Open Communities Alliance. sponsored by New Canaan Library, New Canaan Museum Historical Society and New Canaan Community Foundation, Interfaith Council and Grace Farms Foundation.

Mr. Cole

No Report.

Ms. Bufano

No Report.

#### F. Public Comment

None

G. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. McFadden to adjourn meeting at 9:05 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted  
Jacqueline Rochester  
Taken from video!

Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

- **The goal of this meeting is to work together to address what is expected to be a higher than usual FY2022 mill rate increase and one which may create concern among residents.**
- **Information will be provided on the following topics followed by a discussion.**
  - FY2021 Forecast v Budget
  - FY2022 Forecasted Mill Rate
  - FY2022 Uncertainties

Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

**At this point, FY2021 is forecasted to end the year slightly favorable**

- **Revenues**-Forecasted at \$ 1.2 million favorable
  - 99.2% collection rate
  - Educ Cost Sharing Grant awarded
  - Conveyance, Back Taxes and Liens & Interest
- **BOS** -No monies expected to be returned to the General Fund. Savings used to restore certain budget reductions, including Library grant and to fund non-bonded paving.
- **BOE**-Forecasted to request up to \$810,000 of additional funding from the Board of Finance prior to the end of FY2021 for COVID related expenses not able to be covered in BOE budget.

Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

**FY2022 Forecasted Budget and Mill Rate**

- **The FY2022 forecasted mill rate increase of 4.8% is higher than usual driven by:**
  - Less excess fund balance monies available to reduce the mill rate.
  - Restoration of cost reductions/avoidances reflected in the FY2021 BOS budget, including restoration of the library grant, summer lifeguards and the Senior Center.
  - Restoration of cost reductions/avoidances reflected in the FY2021 BOE budget, including costs which were pre-purchased with FY2020 savings and postponement of teacher training .



Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

**Components of the FY2022 Forecasted Mill Rate**

- **Non Expense Components:**

- Grand List Growth: .2%
- Collection Rate: 99.2%, *increase of .2%*
- Revenues: \$5.5 million, *26.8% increase*

- **Expense and Revenues:**

- Excess Fund Balance Funds Used: \$3.1 million, *(59%) decrease*. FY2020 had one-time COVID savings returned to FB and used in FY2021.
- Debt Service: \$8.8 million, *(2.47%) decrease*. Police Hqtrs bond delayed to 3/2023, first payment in FY2024.
- Board of Selectmen: \$34.1 million, *3.56% increase*. Budgeting full services and grants
- Board of Education: \$84.8, *3% increase*. Budgeting a normal year.

- **Forecasted Mill Rate:** 28.7916, *4.8% increase*. (.89% average annual increase over two years).



Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

**FY2022 Uncertainties, General**

- **Length of pandemic an timing of a vaccine**
- **State Deficits**
- **Economic impact of the pandemic on resident and local business earnings and residential and commercial property values.**
- **Resident expectations for services, spending and property taxes**

Meeting of the Boards of  
Selectmen, Education and Finance

## **FY2022 Uncertainties, Board of Education**

- **Required protocols for health and safety**
  - Same as 2020/21 or modified
- **Learning model(s)**
  - Normal
  - Hybrid
  - Remote
- **Academic progress**
  - Possible additional support for learning gaps for different grade levels and subjects
  - Possible additional support for social-emotional needs
  - Possible additional support for Special Education students
- **Catch up of 2020/21 deferrals**
  - Facilities
  - Teacher training
- **COVID long-term impact on facilities**