

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 REGULAR MEETING
Monday March 1, 2021
Held Electronically

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

GUESTS: Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield, Police Chief John Lynch, Director Public Works, Facilities & Emergency Management-Chris Burney, Parks & Recreation Director Steve Pierce, Social Services Sarah Heath, Director Planning & Zoning & Land Use Management Michael Wrinn, HR Director Sarah Taffel, IS Director John Savarese, CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

B. Public Comment

None

C. Consent Agenda

Motion moved by Ms. McFadden seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Executive Session – February 16, 2021
- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – February 16, 2021

Gifts

- Back-the Track Donation for High School Stadium Track - \$80,523.27
- In a Heartbeat – Donation of AED and Cabinet in Memory of George DiRocco

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Update on Governor's Orders Related to the Budget

Ms. Vanderslice noted the Governor's emergency powers are expected to expire on April 19th. With no plan in place to expand those powers and no plans by the Governor or the Legislature to create an executive order or legislation to allow us to

have anything other than an Annual Town Meeting (ATM) to set the FY2022 budget, the ATM will be held in-person. She and the Registrars will work with Wilton's Health Director Barry Bogle to plan for a safe in-person meeting. She reviewed the attached budget schedule with the BoS. Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2021 with Adjourned Voting scheduled for May 15th, with rain dates to be determined.

2. FY2022 Budget Discussion

Ms. Vanderslice began the discussion of the presentation of the FY2022 BoS requested budget, which was available on the town website. The FY2022 budget request was \$33,943,486, an increase of 3.12% over the FY2021 budget. She reminded the members that last June the FY2021 budget request had been reduced by over \$1 million due to the pandemic. The BoS proposed budget was approximately 0.38% greater than the FY2020 approved budget for a two-year average annual increase of 0.19%. She reviewed answers to questions submitted by members in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Vanderslice recognized the Town departments heads work ethic and commitment to the Wilton community throughout the pandemic. She thanked the town department heads for their work on the budget and their thoughtful approach to the use of taxpayer dollars. She recognized the members of the Town's vaccine team and particularly their efforts for residents aged 75 and up.

3. Possible Appointments – Rudy Escalante (Investment Committee)

Ms. Vanderslice noted Mr. Escalante originally indicated he wasn't seeking reappointment to the Investment Committee, but is since able to serve for another year. Motion to reappoint Rudy Escalante to a full 2-year term. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

E. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectman
None.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell thanked all for work done on the budget with a special thanks to CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz and the First Selectwoman. Recognized Ms. Bufano for her work with the EDC.

Ms. Bufano

Ms. Bufano thanked Mr. Tartell for his comments and acknowledged him for all the work that he does.

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted the cohesiveness of town employees, noting they work well together.

Mr. Cole

None

F. Public Comment

Chief John Lynch – Thanked Ms. Vanderslice for her recognition of the department heads.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion moved by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Ms. Bufano to adjourn meeting at 9:07 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted
Jacqueline Rochester
Taken from video

Rochester, Jacqueline

From: Vanderslice, Lynne
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:47 AM
To: boardofselectmen; Kelly-Lenz, Anne; Rochester, Jacqueline
Subject: Budget Schedule

All,

I'm disappointed to share that my fellow first selectmen and I feel it is doubtful that we will receive the promised authority to allow us to hold something other than an in-person Annual Town Meeting. COST is sponsoring a meeting today, Tuesday, but I'm not holding out much hope.

Therefore, we will move forward accordingly. The following is the meeting schedule, which is a slightly amended version of what was discussed at our January 29th meeting.

- First Meeting-Budget Review: March 1st regular meeting
- Second Meeting-Budget Review: TBD week of March 1st
- Third Meeting-Budget Review, if required: March 8th
- Budget Due Date to BOF, based on 5/8 ATM: March 9th
- Presentation of BOS Budget to BOF: March 16th regular meeting
- BOS Preliminary Discussion of Bonding Referendums March 16th
- Public Hearing BOE-set by the BOF: March 29th
- Public Hearing BOS-set by the BOF: March 30th
- BOS Decision on Bonding Referendums April 5th
- BOF Budget Deliberations-set by BOF: April 6th -April 8th
- Presentation of Bonding Referendums to BOF: April 13th, BOF regular meeting
- Annual Town Meeting: May 8th
- Adjourned Vote: May 15th

Anne is finalizing the budget packet for distribution before the weekend. Hopefully you can clear time this weekend to review it. Please let Anne know whether you would like it in a digital or paper format.

We would appreciate your emailing questions developed during your review to Anne and me by Monday morning. Department heads will be at Monday's meeting. Please let Jackle know your availability for a second meeting next week.

We are beginning to investigate the logistics of the ATM meeting.

An outdoor meeting at the Stadium would obviously work best in terms of social distancing. Because of concerns with weather in early May, there is a statute, see below, that would allow the Board of Selectmen to again push out the date in the hope of warmer weather.

Unfortunately, the calendar isn't in our favor as the first Saturday in June is June 5th, which would mean an adjourned vote on June 12th, which is too late in case it is rejected. The last Saturday in May is the 29th, which is Memorial Day weekend, so that doesn't work. Nor is it a good date for an adjourned vote.

Bottom line, we would need to have the Saturday vote on May 20th at the latest. This means either an outdoor daytime meeting on Saturday May 15th or a weeknight evening meeting under the Stadium lights during the week of May 17th. An evening meeting could start at 6:00 pm. To shorten the meeting, BOE, BOS and BOF presentations could be recorded and distributed in advance. The only financial presentation would be the reading of the public notice. Nothing in the Charter, posted below, requires presentations at the ATM itself.

We are also investigating capacity for an indoor meeting at the WHS Field House with possible overflow in the WHS cafeteria.

We won't have a proposal ready for our March 1 meeting, but I hope to have had a discussion with the registrars in advance of Monday's meeting.

Thanks,
Lynne

Sec. 7-191b. Amendments to charters to modify budget adoption dates. Notwithstanding the provisions of this title and chapters 164, 170 and 204 and any special act, municipal charter or home rule ordinance, a municipality, upon a two-thirds vote of its legislative body, may amend its charter for the sole purpose of modifying its budget adoption dates. Such budget adoption dates may include, but need not be limited to, applicable dates relating to an executive presentation of a proposed budget, public hearings, fiscal authority action, publications, referenda or final budget adoption. Any vote by the legislative body of a municipality pursuant to this section shall include a reference to this section. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-401.

The Town Meeting, at the Annual Town Meeting, shall consider the recommendations of the Board of Finance, and may, by amendment made and seconded, and approved by those in attendance, reduce (but not increase) the Board of Education's total recommended budget; individual line items in the Board of Selectmen's recommended budget; and the debt service recommended appropriation. The Town Meeting may not authorize any appropriation for any purpose which was not requested by either the Board of Education or the Board of Selectmen nor recommended by the Board of Finance. The Town Meeting may not reduce any proposed appropriation (the "proposed appropriation") below that amount equal to the legal obligation of the Town nor reduce the employer's pension or other post-employment benefits contributions below the actuarially calculated annual required contributions.