

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
Tuesday April 20, 2021
Held Electronically

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

GUESTS: CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 8:19pm.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a Motion to add 2 items to the agenda – Appointment of Tax Collector as item C and Renewal of ESRI GIS Contract as item E-6. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

B. Public Comment
None.

C. Appointment of Tax Collector

Ms. Kelly Lenz noted the retirement of the previous tax collector for the town. She recommended Sarah Scacco be appointed Tax Collector in addition to her responsibilities as Assessor. She noted certification isn't required to serve as a Tax Collector, but shared Ms. Scacco had begun the classes to obtain certification. After discussion and review Ms. Vanderslice made a motion to appoint Sarah Scacco as the Tax Collector for the remaining term and require that she receive certification within two years of this appointment. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

D. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Bufano seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows amending the BoS Regular Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2021 under Ms. McFadden's comment to clarify question regarding additional COVID clinics to read as "May and June of this fiscal year and next fiscal year":

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Executive Session – April 5, 2021
- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – April 5, 2021

Refunds

- As per Tax Collector's Memo dated April 19, 2021

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. Ordinance to Allow for Membership in the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority

Ms. Vanderslice noted during the Public Hearing earlier in the evening there was only one comment (more of a question), which was addressed. As there was no further discussion, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented in the Public Hearing. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0. Ms. Vanderslice noted there is a 21-day waiting period before the ordinance becomes effective. The board thanked Mr. Chris Burney (DPW Director) for his efforts in bringing this suggestion forward. Ms. McFadden posed the question of when the board can appoint the elector and alternate to the HRRRA. Ms. Vanderslice responded that it should occur after the ordinance is effective, likely in June.

2. Wilton Health Department Vaccine Clinic Report

Ms. Vanderslice provided an overview, see attached, of the Town's four-month effort to facilitate the vaccination of Wilton residents and employees. Over 3,000 vaccines were administered at the Wilton Health Department's 17 vaccine clinics.

3. Legislation Update

Ms. Vanderslice provided an update and expressed concern about a proposed bill to eliminate the property tax on motor vehicles. The Town collects approximately \$5.8 million in motor vehicle taxes. That amount would need to be paid through increased real estate and personal property taxes, which would disproportionately be funded by businesses. She reviewed a memo she received from Town Counsel that reviewed the Governor's new Executive Orders.

4. Status of Remote Meetings

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the attached regarding the Status of Remote Meetings which included her recommendation for meetings. Discussion amongst the board.

5. Tentative Appointments

- Deer Committee – Donna Merrill

Ms. Vanderslice noted that Donna Merrill was a previous member of the Deer Committee and would like to be appointed once again.

Recommendation to appoint Ms. Merrill came from the Chair of the Deer Committee. Motion made by Ms. Bufano to appoint Donna Merrill to the Conservation Commission – Deer Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

6. Renewal of ESRI GIS Contract

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the ESRI GIS Contract and noted that the contract is a 3-year renewal and has been reviewed by Town Counsel. She noted that the contract is for \$27,000 and was part of the budget presented by IS Director John Savarese. Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion for the First Selectwoman to execute the contract. Motion moved by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

Ms. Vanderslice read a statement from the CT Police Chief's Association forwarded by Police Chief John Lynch regarding the Derek Chauvin verdict.

2. Selectmen

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted the Town Meeting is occurring differently this year. She noted that as often as possible to send out reminders to the residents noting the changes.

She thanked CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz, Department Heads and various employees who contributed to process of creating the BoS budget that went forward.

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell gave recognition to First Selectwoman Vanderslice for her reading of the Proclamation at the Patriots Day event on April 19, 2021.

He also noted the daffodils around town and commended the Wilton Garden Club.

Mr. Tartell also noted the documentary Chasing Childhood sponsored by the Wilton Youth Organization. You can register to view the documentary for free on their website.

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole updated the board on what is happening with the Tree Committee. He noted that the board had charged the Tree Committee with recommendations to improve resiliency with power and trees and they have a very good set of recommendations and will be coming forth to present to the board after meeting with the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Cole also updated the board on plans from the Wilton Chamber.

Ms. Bufano

Ms. Bufano noted that the board should have the Economic Development Commission come to present progress they have made in engaging with Wilton business owners.

G. Public Comment

None

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:13pm. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

Board of Selectmen Meeting
April 20, 2021

VACCINE EFFORTS

**CONNECTICUT DPH USE OF
SMALL LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE VACCINE**

- *Part of the Initial Group of Vaccine Providers*
- *Lessened Role as More Providers Came Onboard*
- *Facilitated Educator and Childcare Vaccinations*

VACCINE EFFORTS

GOALS OF THE WILTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PLAN

- ***Prioritized Wilton's Most Vulnerable Residents***
 - Vaccinated Aged 75 and Up Living at Home
 - Facilitated Residents of Congregate Facilities
 - Homebound Residents
- ***Prioritized Wilton Essential Workers***
 - Police, Firefighters, Janitors, DPW, Educators, Childcare Workers
- ***Prioritized Wilton Residents***
 - Moved to Closed Clinics to Control Recipients
 - Waitlist for Residents Only

RESULTS OF THE WILTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE CLINICS

as of Thursday, April 22nd

- ***Over 3,000 Vaccines Administered***
- ***Held 17 Vaccine Clinics***
 - January 14th through April 22nd
 - Wilton Fire Headquarters
 - WHS Field House
 - WEPCO
- ***Vaccine Security***
 - Procedures and Controls for Extra Doses
 - Vetted Stand-by Recipients

VACCINE EFFORTS

STATUS

- ***As of Monday, April 12th, 84% of Eligible Wilton Residents Had Received At Least a First Dose***
 - On Thursday, CT DPH will release vaccinations rates as of April 19th
 - Should provide a sense of Wilton's vaccine ceiling as we don't expect 100% of residents will choose to be vaccinated
- ***At the End of this Week All Homebound Residents, Who Were Offered and Accepted Will Have Received the Vaccine***
- ***Vaccines are Readily Available***
 - Same Day Vaccines are Available
- ***Wilton Health Departments Vaccine Clinics Are Suspended After April 22nd***

Board of Selectmen Meeting
April 20, 2021

VACCINE EFFORTS

THANK YOU

- ***VACCINE LEADERSHIP TEAM***
- ***VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY***
- ***WILTON C.E.R.T***
- ***ST. MATTHEWS EPISCOPAL & WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS***
- ***WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF***

Remote Meetings

- **On April 19th, the Governor extended EO 7B until May 20th. 7B allows remote meetings in the manner currently held.**
- **After May 20th:**
 - A 1981 opinion from the FOIA Commission allows for board and commission members to attend meetings remotely. At least one member should be in the room, along with a device to allow the public to hear the members attending remotely. The opinion does not specifically address the public attending remotely.
 - The CT Legislature is expected to pass legislation to allow for a continuance of remote participation by both members and the public.

Recommendation for Meetings

Board of Selectmen:

- **Continue to hold remote Board of Selectmen meetings through May 20th**
- **After May 20th assuming no extension or legislation:**
 - Continue to use Zoom for meetings
 - Zoom to be the sole means to view live meetings
 - Zoom videos continue to be available on the town website and on Channel 79
 - At least one member to attend in-person and also use Zoom.
 - Public can attend in-person or submit comments through email
 - Guest can attend in-person or on Zoom
 - Mask wearing is expected to be required past May 20th

Recommendation for Meetings

Other Boards and Commissions:

- Each board or commission to decide their own approach subject to
 - Continue to use Zoom to record meetings
 - Follow requirements if holding hybrid meetings
 - In-person meetings comply with health protocols
 - Town employees not required to attend in person.