

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard Creeth

Harold E. Clark

MAR 04 2008 Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2008

MINUTES

- Present: William F. Brennan, Susan A. Bruschi, Harold E. Clark, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard F. Creeth
- Others: Sarah Taffel, Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Administrative Services and Joseph Dolan, Chief Financial Officer
- Guests: Dan Mahoney, Kathy Leeds, Louise Herot, Nicki Brown, Glenn Hemmerle, Dave Waters, Michael Kaelin of Wilton Library Association. Pamela Hovland, Alicia Lindgren, John Taylor, Harriet Taylor and Marian Wilffleff of Ambler Farm. Brian Shea of the Wilton Bulletin and Frank MacEachern of the Wilton Villager.

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

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Clark reported that Section B(5) of the January 22, 2008 meeting minutes should reflect that he prepared notes on the Charter Articles I and II, these notes were distributed to the Selectmen, and were incorporated into the discussion.

Mr. Clark also reported that Section D(2), Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs, of the January 22, 2008 meeting minutes should reflect that he, not Mr. Creeth, expressed concern about the presence of mercury in compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Mr. Brennan expressed his appreciation for the gifts made to the Wilton Fire Department and the Wilton Senior Center.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Creeth and unanimously carried to approve the minutes with the above corrections.

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – January 22, 2008, as amended with Mr. Clark's corrections as noted above.

Refunds

- Motor vehicles refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memoranda dated January 29, 2008.

Gifts

- Five Dollars (\$5.00) from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company on behalf of a purchaser for the DVD "Into the Fire". For every DVD sold in the amount of \$7.00, \$5.00 will be donated to the Wilton Fire Department.

- Three-Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$375.00) from the Greens at Cannondale to the Wilton Senior Center.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Library Trustees – Quarterly Report

Michael Kaelin will be assuming Jim Saxe's responsibility of presenting to the Board of Selectmen and a replacement Board of Selectmen Trustee will be needed to replace Mr. Saxe's spot who has recently been elected to the Board of Education. His term will be up in June. David Waters has been appointed to the Executive Committee.

Activity -- The library is being utilized by more than 100 people during the extended hours.

Fundraising -- Their fundraising efforts continue, and currently they are ahead of budget. A series of three letters are being sent out asking for support. They received a gift from the Shoft Trust to improve Library access for people of limited mobility, including a vehicle to help navigate throughout the building, the installation of ramps outside the building, and a new book drop.

Programs -- United States Constitution Lecture Series -- 4 different lectures, put together in conjunction with the Wilton Historical Society will be conducted over the course of the next several months.

Capital Improvements -- A new glass canopy will be constructed over the entrance to the library to let in sunlight and protect the entrance. A new HVAC system will be installed in the old section of the library.

Financials -- The financials for the quarter ending December 31, 2007 and the audited financials for the last fiscal year, a copy of which has been provided to the Board of Selectmen, report a clean bill of financial health. Ms. Bruschi asked if the deficit due to medical and pension costs was known before or after the Fiscal Year 2008 budget was completed. Ms. Becker responded that the increase in medical expenses was due to employee status changes. Mr. Clark asked about the bad debt of \$72,800. Ms. Leeds answered that the debt was due to unfulfilled pledges of donation from three individuals, one who moved out of town and two who are deceased.

Mr. Brennan said that the Town provides approximately 75% of the Library's funding. He asked if there was a downturn in the economy and donations start to trail off, how would the Library respond to the drop in revenue? Ms. Herot stated that all donations go to purchasing books and programs, not for operating expenses, and they would have to consider cutting back on the programs and purchase of new books if there was a drop in donations.

Room rentals -- Ms. Leeds reported that revenue from room rentals is over budget, very robust, and they will continue to encourage that growth.

Mr. Creeth asked if the Library had spoken to Bruce Hampson or anyone else on the Energy Commission regarding the new HVAC system to be installed in the old section of the Library. Mr. Kaelin stated that the arrangements for the new HVAC system predated the Energy Commission. Mr. Creeth will provide Ms. Leeds with contact information for the Energy Commission.

2. Town of Wilton Charter – Review of Article III

There was a discussion of the Town Charter Article III led by Ms. Bruschi.

Mr. Hoffstatter will present Article IV at the February 25, 2008 Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting.

Mr. Creeth will present on Article VII at the March 17, 2008 Board of Selectmen' Regular Meeting.

3. Discussion of Proposed Blight Ordinance Draft

Discussion ensued concerning the red line version of the Blight Ordinance draft provided by Mr. Nerney which incorporated the comments from the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Brennan had provided a copy of the red line version to Mr. Ken Bernhard for his review as well. Several recommended edits were agreed upon by the Selectmen. Mr. Brennan will communicate the suggested changes to Mr. Nerney.

4. Ambler Farm – Historic Property Designation

There have been concerns raised regarding the historic property designation. The main concern is that the designation may affect the restoration of the White House, etc. After some discussion concerning the timing of the designation, a MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 5-0 to designate Ambler Farm a historic property.

5. Consideration of Appointment of Eric Fanwick to the Wilton Water Commission

Mr. Fanwick is being proposed to replace Jim Meinhold on the Wilton Water Commission.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bruschi, seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried 5-0 to appoint Eric Fanwick to replace Jim Meinhold on the Wilton Water Commission.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Brennan reported that the next budget meeting is Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Brennan requested that the Selectmen notify his office if they cannot attend a meeting. Mr. Dolan has requested that a brief meeting of the Trustees of the Town of Wilton Employees Retirement Plan be held prior to the start of the budget meeting. Mr. Dolan stated that four (4) people are needed for a quorum. The pension issue being addressed is that in order for the Town's account to be transferred from the Vanguard's Flagship Division to the Institutional Division, Vanguard is requiring a resolution authorizing certain individuals, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Janet Bondeson, and Mr. Richard McArdle, to act on behalf of the Trust in certain capacities with respect to any Vanguard mutual fund account owned by the Trust.

There will be a Public Hearing on March 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to address a proposed Wilton Code of Ethics amendment.

Mr. Brennan provided an FAA alliance activity report. He attended a four hour meeting in New Canaan with CEO's (or designated representatives) of 14 participating towns. Christopher Shays was also in attendance. Lead Counsel provided an extensive update. Eleven lawsuits have been filed (a record for the FAA) and three courts are presently involved. The states involved are: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware. There is much that cannot be discussed at this point in time. The target date to file the brief is mid-March to end of April. With respect to the FOIA cases, since the government does not have a time limit in which it must respond, the FAA has been slow to produce the requested information as government does not have a time limit in which it must respond. In the near future, the General Account Office will be issuing a report on the study it has been conducting which the Alliance is hoping will be supportive of its efforts.

2. Selectmen's Reports

Hal Clark: The Transfer Station Committee had its first meeting the week prior to the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Dave Hapke of the Conservation Commission would like an opportunity to make comments. Mr. Brennan asked how long it would be before the Committee provides answers to Phase 1. Mr. Clark indicated a response was anticipated for the meeting of February 25, 2008. Mr. Brennan suggested the March 3, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting would be a better date to address the matter.

Richard Creeth: The Energy Commission is making progress and will be presenting a proposal soon with the focus being on lighting.

The Wilton Commons application for tax credits is pending. He suggested that any citizens who would like to express their support of the project should submit letters of endorsement.

Ted Hoffstatter: Mr. Hoffstatter attended the Citizens Program that the Wilton Police Department put on this past Fall. He stated it was helpful and enlightening, and he encourages other citizens to attend the next program.

Many Seniors are concerned about the status of the Senior Center project. He went to see the Westport Senior Center and found it to be impressive, practical and effective. He recommended that the other Selectmen visit the Westport Senior Center.

The "Help USA – Home is where the heart is" had their fund raiser February 2, 2008 to help veterans with housing needs upon their return from active duty, and it was very well attended.

Susan Bruschi: Ms. Bruschi has been a liaison with the Senior Advisory Council, and they are ready to move forward with requirements for the Senior Center.

Ms. Bruschi attended the monthly Republican Women of Wilton meeting on February 2, 2008, and they had a record turnout. There were a lot of questions raised on the Charter Commission and the subject of the alcohol ordinance was raised.

D. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Creeth and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Powers