

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Toni Boucher  
*First Selectman*

Joshua S. Cole  
*Second Selectman*

Kimberley Healy  
*Selectwoman*

Basam Nabulsi  
*Selectman*

Ross H. Tartell  
*Selectman*

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday January 23, 2024**

**PRESENT:** First Selectwoman Toni Boucher, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell

**GUESTS:** Attorney Nick Bamonte, Attorney Anthony Febles, Mike Boswood-Treasurer of WLA, Caroline Mandler-Executive Director of WLA and members of the Library Board, Public Works Director/Town Engineer-Frank Smeriglio, Assistant Director/Facilities Manager-Jeff Pardo CFO-Dawn Norton, Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker

**A. Call to Order**

Ms. Boucher called the Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**B. Executive Session – Interview and Discussion**

- Hillary Morrissey – Economic Development Commission (EDC)
- Court Docket #FBT-CV-6091790-S Town of Wilton v. Bloodgood, Jr, John D., et al.
- Property
- AFSCME Contract

Ms. Boucher asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:03pm for the above topics and invite Hillary Morrissey for interview for EDC, Atty Anthony Febles and Atty Nick Bamonte for Court Docket #FBT-CV-6091790-S Town of Wilton v. Bloodgood, Jr, John D., et al., Town Administrator-Matt Knickerbocker. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy. After discussion motion carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in regular session at 8:06pm.

Ms. Boucher asked for a motion to add an additional item under Discussion and/or Action as item E-10: Request for Budget Transfer. Motion made by Mr. Nabulsi to add an item to the agenda as item E-10 a consideration as a motion to transfer funds. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

**C. Public Comment**

- Deborah McFadden of Westport Rd. commented on revaluation and suggested correspondence be sent out to the community. Ms. Boucher commented and noted she would summarize information on the subject in her First Selectman's report.

D. Consent Agenda

Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes
  - Board of Selectmen Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024
- Gift
  - Patricia M. Giacalone – Fire Dept Gift Fund - \$200.00

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. Potential action Regarding Court Docket #FBT-CV-6091790-S Town of Wilton v. Bloodgood, Jr, John D., et al.

Ms. Boucher reviewed, noting a positive outcome has resulted in the ongoing case of blight in the town. She noted Mr. Bloodgood has made more than a good effort for mediation of the property and the property is now ready for new ownership. She noted that there is a clause in the proposed purchase contract for the new owner to cure the current blight order from the town if there is any remaining at all. She asks the board for a motion to authorize the proposed sale of the property at 61 Chestnut Hill from John Bloodgood to Grover Perez of Sound Beach General Contractors LLC. Motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi, seconded by Cole. Discussion amongst the board with Mr. Cole noting, the sale does not make the blight situation go away, and if the blight is not remediated, the town still has full recourse against the purchaser to ensure the remediation continues and is completed. All board in agreement on the sale. After further review and discussion, motion carried 5-0.

2. WLA FY25 Budget

Treasurer Mike Boswood and Executive Director Caroline Mandler of the WLA reviewed their budget requests with the board (see attached). The library is requesting \$3,058,162, which is an increase of 2.71%, the budget reflects 3 priorities: expanding library services to the community; changes required to implement strategic plan; increased efficiency, while preserving service levels. Discussion with the board, Mr. Boswood and Ms. Mandler.

3. Fairfield County Mutual Police Assistance Compact

Police Chief Tom Conlan reviewed. The agreement aims to allow for the creation of a regional approach to law enforcement which would result in better coordination and less duplication in law enforcement efforts. He noted the agreement was reviewed by Town Counsel and the Town's insurance company. After further review and discussion, Ms. Boucher asked for a motion to allow the First Selectman to execute the Fairfield County Mutual Police Assistance Compact. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

4. Commission Agent & Special Inspection & Testing Contracts for Police Station Construction  
Frank Smeriglio and Jeff Pardo reviewed the requests for Commission Agent and Special Inspection & Testing Contracts for the Police Station Construction. It was noted that these contracts are vital to the project to ensure proper construction and mechanical system installations. Mr. Pardo noted that he did not go out for an RFP but contacted companies that have state contracts for commissioning and state contracts for special inspections and testing. Of the companies he reviewed, he is recommending BVH-Sala O'Brien for the Commission Agent in the amount of \$53,000 and IMTL for the Special Inspections & Testing in the amount of \$48,185. After further review and discussion with the board, Ms. Boucher asked for a motion to approve 53,000 for Commissioning Services with BVH-Salas

O'Brien and \$48,185 for Special Inspection & Testing by ITML. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Tartell. Discussion with the board and Mr. Pardo with Mr. Smeriglio providing additional input. After discussion, motion carried 5-0.

5. Possible Presentation of Municipal Needs Assessment Report  
Frank Smeriglio and Jeff Pardo reviewed the preliminary results with the board regarding the Municipal Needs Assessment Report. Ms. Boucher noted that the report was recently received and it has not been fully reviewed. Cost estimates will be forthcoming shortly. Reports on the various buildings are available on [www.wiltonct.org](http://www.wiltonct.org) for review. She noted that estimated costs could be in the ballpark of \$50 million. There will be further discussions on both the Municipal Needs Report and School Buildings Needs Report so that repairs on a priority basis and timing could be determined.
6. AFSCME Contract  
Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker reviewed with the board. He noted that the contract was discussed in a previous Executive Session with the board and the Tentative Agreement was approved by the previous administration. Further review took place in Executive Session earlier in the meeting with the new administration. Mr. Knickerbocker is asking the board to approve the AFSCME contract for the period starting July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. After discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to approve the AFSCME contract effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy. After discussion motion carried 5-0.
7. Amendment to HRRRA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program Agreement  
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed with the board. He noted that it is a request from HRRRA for an extension to the HRRRA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program Agreement. He noted that the HRRRA has negotiated extension of the contract with no increase in pricing. HRRRA has approved the contract and looking for individual municipalities to approve as well. Looking for approval to have the First Selectman sign the agreement. After review, motion moved by Ms. Healy to authorize the First Selectman to execute the Amendment to HRRRA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.
8. Possible Naming of Town Property Policy  
Ms. Boucher reviewed with the board the possibility of a policy for Naming of town owned property. She noted this was triggered by a request to honor a long-standing citizen of the town that was very active in volunteering and was a former member of several boards that recently passed away. Ms. Boucher noted that town counsel forwarded a possible policy to discuss the naming of town-owned property after any individual, installing plaques or otherwise. Discussion with the board who agreed to review and consider further.
9. Set Annual Town Meeting & Adjourned Vote Date  
Ms. Boucher reviewed with the board setting of the date for the Annual Town Meeting and the Adjourned Vote. After discussion, motion made by Ms. Healy to set the Annual Town Meeting for May 7, 2024 at 7:00pm with the Adjourned Vote Date for May 11, 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
10. Request for Budget Transfer  
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed the request for a budget transfer with the board. He noted the request is for \$198,212 from the Assessor Dept. Capital account to the IT Software account. The purpose of the request is to move forward with the implementation of an online permitting system. He noted that the funds are within budget. After discussion,

motion made by Mr. Cole to transfer \$198,212 from the Assessor Dept. Capital account to the IT Software account. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.

F. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectman

- Ms. Boucher noted that the Wilton Hockey Association is holding a special event on February 3, 2024 from 7:30pm-10:30pm at the Wintergarden Arena in Ridgefield – WHS Boys Varsity vs Trumbull
- Ms. Boucher raised the topic of the revaluation and gave an overview to try and clear up some misconceptions. She reviewed the timeline for requesting an informal hearing with Vision and the overall process.

2. Selectmen/Selectwoman

Mr. Tartell

Forum being sponsored by the Wilton YMCA, the WLA and Temple B'nai Chaim called Confronting Acts of Hate in our Community to be held on February 4, 2024 from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy thanked the Department of Public Works for their efforts in plowing the streets from the storm over the weekend. She also noted that the Interfaith Group in New Canaan is hosting an event for MLK day and Adrienne Reedy (one of the Town's Police Commissioner) will be performing.

Mr. Cole

None.

Mr. Nabulsi

None.

G. Public Comment

None

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video