

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice  
*First Selectman*

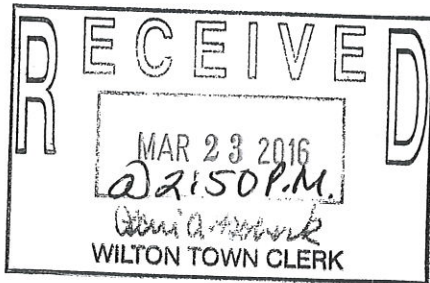
Michael P. Kaelin  
*Second Selectman*

David K. Clune  
*Selectman*

Lori A. Bufano  
*Selectman*

Richard J. Dubow  
*Selectman*

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET WORKSESSION  
Wednesday March 2, 2016  
Meeting Room B, Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Lynne Vanderslice, Michael Kaelin, Richard Dubow, David Clune, Lori Bufano

**ALSO PRESENT:** Anne Kelly-Lenz, Sarah Taffel, John Savarese, Steve Pierce, Mark Ketley

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**1. Discussion and Approval of FY2017 Budget:**

Mark Ketley, Chair of the Parks and Recreations Commission and Steve Pierce, Director of Parks and Recreation reviewed the recommended parks and recreation policy to allow residents free access to Merwin Meadows, non residents will continue to be charged as they have in the past, other fees would remain the same as in the past. Motion made by Mr. Clune to accept the proposal put forth by Parks and Recreation, seconded by Mr. Kaelin and passed 4-1.

Motion made by Mr. Kaelin to address the item to 2 on the agenda before proceeding with Discussion and Approval of FY2017 Budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried.

**2. Discussion of Candidate Interview Process**

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the open positions on the current Board and Commissions. She noted that five people have self nominated for the Economic Development Commission and three people have self nominated for the Miller Driscoll Building Committee. She suggested a special meeting to conduct interviews. Mr. Kaelin expressed his concern that the new BOS practice of allowing individuals to self nominate directly to the BOS should not duplicate or undermine the efforts of the political parties. He suggested the BOS document the procedures more clearly. It was noted that there is a need to find a procedure that works to include all in the process. Mr. Dubow noted that the parties provided two benefits to the process; they do an important job of vetting volunteers for the board/commissions and created a pipeline for positions of increasing responsibility over time and would not want to lose that. Ms. Vanderslice noted that it wasn't the intent of the Board to diminish the

role of the parties but rather to create a path for those who do not want to go through either the DTC or the RTC.

**Al Alper**, Chair of the Republican Town Committee (RTC) spoke regarding the process for selecting volunteers for boards and commissions. Mr. Alper feels that it is not fair that a recommendation by the RTC/DTC carries the same weight as someone who self nominates for a position. Mr. Alper noted that the Board of Selectmen should hear from the public long before the first person is interviewed if they are going outside the normal process.

Ms. Vanderslice clarified that the largest number of citizens in Town are Unaffiliated. The question remains if you are unaffiliated and want to serve on a board/commission and have chosen not to go through a particular party, what is avenue? Mr. Dubow noted an individual seeking a place on the ballot for an elected position is required to obtain signatures. Ms. Vanderslice suggested the possibility of mirroring that process. Mr. Kaelin proposed that the RTC/DTC come to the Board with their proposal of how we should deal with unaffiliated voters who want to serve on an appointed board/commission but do not want to go through the town committees. Mr. Clune proposed for those who have submitted resumes, the Board should move forward with the interviews. A Special Meeting was tentatively set for March 15, 2016 to interview those candidates. The Board will hold discussions of procedures and solicit opinions from the RTC and DTC before moving forward.

#### Discussion and Approval of FY17 budget (continued)

Ms. Vanderslice stated that she had discussion with Vivian Lee-Shiue and Bob Nerney, Director Planning and Zoning regarding budget. Based on those discussions, she feels funding for some of the proposed initiatives is premature as the Commission is a work in progress. Suggestions were made to meet with Mr. Nerney and visit other towns to get a better understanding of how things should be done and resources put in move in the right direction. Recommendation was made to keep the budget flat but allowing the commission to come back to Board of Selectmen for additional appropriations in the future.

Ms. Vanderslice reported she had reviewed legal bills for the last two years and was comfortable with the current legal budget.

Mr. Dubow had questioned whether the Fire Station II building committee required additional funds. Ms. Vanderslice indicated Chris Burney felt the \$90,000 previously approved was adequate.

Ms. Vanderslice noted that a new grant was included in the FY2017 state budget. The grant is an additional sales tax sharing grant. When the state prepared their initial budget it included a grant to Wilton for a little over \$547,000. Included in the Governor's proposed cuts are cuts in municipal aid. Ms. Vanderslice stated she spoke with Representative Gail Lavielle about the viability of the grant. The town is not including that amount in the budgeted revenue.

Ms. Vanderslice moved for a motion to approve the FY2017 operating budget of \$31,018,191, FY2017 operating capital budget of \$1,396,689 for a total of



\$32,414,880, which is \$17,315 below last year approved budget. Motion made by Mr. Clune to approve the budget, seconded by Mr. Kaelin and unanimously carried.

Ms. Vanderslice stated that the 5 year capital bonded requirements remain the same other than moving \$1 million for the Fire Station from FY2017 to 2018.

Mr. Kaelin moved to remove the request for the dive truck from the capital bonded requirements. He stated that he feels Wilton should not have to bare the total cost of the truck and that it should be a shared cost among other towns by regionalizing the dive teams. Comments were also made about waiting to find a grant for the purchase. CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz noted that the grant would be more likely if regionalization was in place. Mr. Dubow felt that the truck should remain as he believes it would provide an incentive to other towns to regionalize.

Motion made by Mr. Kaelin to remove the Dive truck from the 5 year capital bonded requirements, seconded by Mr. Clune and carried 4-1-0.

Mr. Dubow asked that Chief Kanterman and Deputy Chief Amatrudo attend a future board meeting to discuss the purchase of the dive truck in more detail.

Ms. Vanderslice will prepare budget memo to be forwarded to the Board of Finance on March 4, 2016 with copies to the Board of Selectman.

Presentation to the Board of Finance on March 16, 2016. The focus of presentation will be on staffing of the police department and emergency response protocols. Further review on staffing will be answered at the Public Hearing on March 29, 2016 and the Town Meeting on May 3, 2016.

Having no further business, motion made by Mr. Kaelin to adjourn the meeting at 9:08p.m., seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried.



Jacqueline Rochester  
Recording Secretary  
(Taken from video)