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Ted W. Hoffstatter

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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**February 9, 2012**  
**Meeting Room B, Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** William Brennan, Harold Clark, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard Dubow,  
James Saxe

**ALSO PRESENT** Sandy Dennies, Richard McArdle, Andy Pforzheimer

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

**FY 2012-2013 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Brennan stated that he is doing research on employee headcount in neighboring communities. Preliminary results show that the number of Town of Wilton employees, per capita, is very lean on a comparative basis. We have not added any additional employees in the past seven years, and actually reduced headcount by 1.5 employees.

The department budgets presented to the BOS were very thorough and indicated efforts to keep costs to a minimum. This has been difficult because we have made so many reductions over the past few years, due to the economic situation. We are trying to meet the Board of Finance objectives, but it will not be easy.

In FY '13, we have several extraordinary costs, such as revaluation; four union contracts under negotiation; Fire Department regionalization, plus capital needs for an Engine Tanker; and a very necessary Road Recovery and Restoration Program. This budget will address deferred maintenance and capital needs. In the last four years, the BOS has made no bonded capital budget requests, making it necessary to "catch up" this year.

We have received new estimates on town department revenues, as requested during the budget presentations, which add an additional \$200,000 to anticipated revenues.

Mr. Brennan and Ms. Dennies drafted a preliminary list of areas that may present an opportunity for reduction from department requests. These were discussed and the

consensus of the Selectmen was agreement with these reductions in the amount of \$255,474.

### **Bonded Capital**

Mr. Brennan advised that there is still a possibility of negotiations on a desirable parcel of land. He suggests continuing the \$2.5 million for purchase of open space but will advise of any information that becomes available that would adjust this figure accordingly.

Costs for the fiber-optic project are firming up and when more information is available, the BOS will be presented with costs and options. Mr. Saxe suggests phasing this over 3-4 years by laying pipe while trenches are open but running cable in a later fiscal year.

Regarding the purchase of a replacement for Fire Engine Tanker 4, all agreed that there is a concern about waiting another two years. If we proceed with ordering a replacement during the FY'13 Budget, we will have a good chance of achieving a \$55,000 resale value on the 1994 vehicle.

The Road Recovery and Restoration Program requires \$1.65 million bonded each year over a five year period. Mr. Dubow suggested keeping some money in the operating budget for repairs such as potholes, which DPW has already done.

The requested funds for a generator at the Comstock Community Center building have been reduced after receiving a firm estimate. Back-up power at this building will allow additional use as an emergency shelter.

Mr. Brennan has forwarded information on the Comstock roof replacement to the Council on Public Facilities for their opinion and a firm quote. We were not approved for a STEAP grant for this project and it cannot be postponed any longer.

Regarding the renovations to the white house at Ambler Farm, it was agreed to spread \$125,000 of funding across four years. The Town will require Friends of Ambler Farm to raise \$125,000 each year to match the Town funds.

### **Operating Capital**

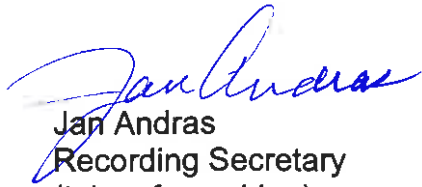
Most of the operating capital requests involve Public Safety equipment. During the four year Route 7 project by DOT, we received enough revenue to replace police cruisers. Now that the project is completed, we must cover the costs in operating capital again.

### **Board of Education Capital**

Mr. Brennan met with Bruce Likly, BOE Chairman, and received the BOE Capital requests which are being forwarded to the Council on Public Facilities. The BOE outlines the capital needs for the facilities, but these are BOS projects. On Wednesday, 2/15/12, the BOS will be meeting with the BOE to discuss these capital projects.

The next BOS Workshop meeting will then be on Thursday, 2/16/12. We should have more information and be able to vote at that time.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Jan Andras  
Recording Secretary  
(taken from video)