

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100  
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: [Bill.Brennan@Wiltonct.org](mailto:Bill.Brennan@Wiltonct.org)



William F. Brennan  
*First Selectman*

Harold E. Clark  
*Second Selectman*

Ted W. Hoffstatter

Richard J. Dubow

James A. Saxe

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012  
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Bill Brennan, Hal Clark, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard Dubow, James Saxe

**GUESTS:** Sandy Dennies, John Savarese, Captain John Lynch, three members of public, two members of press

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. noting that this is a special meeting with only one item on the agenda and there will be no public comment.

**Bonded Capital Projects**

Mr. Brennan read comments (attached). Last week, Town Counsel estimated that it will take another 4-6 months to resolve the Yankee Gas easement issues. This could allow for adequate time to revisit the fiber optic network project in order to follow up on several suggestions made at the recent Public Information Meeting.

Mr. Saxe moved to reaffirm the Board of Selectmen's unanimous commitment to the fiber optic network project and to withdraw the project from the capital projects referendum items to be voted on at the ATM tomorrow evening. Motion seconded.

Mr. Clark believes that questions heard at the last public information meeting were good and since we now know that there can be some more time available to us, we can continue to look at this project and determine if there are any ways to reduce costs.

Mr. Dubow continues to believe that this is the right project at the right time and would significantly reduce the risk profile for the town during emergencies. It also provides necessary infrastructure to improve both current and future town services and eliminates some of the unnecessary duplication across departments. It also opens the opportunity for future initiatives that in the long term can and will save taxpayers money. The group of people involved in the planning of this project did an exceptional job, and the collaborative efforts reflect the kinds of principles being advocated and encouraged

in the town. He will reluctantly support the motion since we have learned that there is more time to look at the project.

Mr. Hoffstatter supports the project but feels it is good that there is time to get answers for those with questions. Mr. Clark added that the Board of Finance advocates "structural change", which is what this project reflects.

The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Jan Andras  
Minutes taken from video

att: B. Brennan comments

**TOWN OF WILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING**

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

As you will recall, the board voted unanimously to place six capital projects on the Annual Town Meeting agenda for a referendum vote because we believe they are all important for the future of Wilton.

While, the fiber optic network project has been the subject of a lot of spirited debate, I believe it has been a productive discussion.

I called this special meeting because I have some important updated information to share with you that relates to one of the projects.

In brief:

- Last Thursday, a full review of legal strategy and plans to resolve Yankee Gas easement issues with three properties was discussed with Town Counsel.
- The probable time line to accomplish the legal activity required was reviewed in detail.
- Legal counsel's best estimate of the time required for the legal process is approximately 4-6 months – best case.

Given this new time line, I recommend the following action by the Board of Selectmen:

1. Reaffirm our unanimous commitment to the fiber optic network project, which is a vital project to fully integrate a town-wide communications system and to improve public safety in emergency situations.
2. Acknowledge that at the recent Public Information Meeting and from various citizens' communications regarding this project, several good suggestions were made that we believe should be followed up on.
3. As adequate time exists to revisit the fiber optic network project, I recommend we vote to withdraw the project from the capital projects referendum items to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting tomorrow night.
4. Town Counsel has advised that the BOS has the authority to do this and there is time tomorrow to adjust the ballots.

5. This will allow time to conduct a full review of the project, consider various citizen suggestions, involve our consultant, BVH, and obtain valued input from some of our IT knowledgeable citizens during the review process.

In summary, I believe withdrawing the project temporarily at this time makes the most sense, as a full review will enable some of the aspects of the project that were questioned to be fully discussed. As board members, we want a project model that will garner strong citizen support. A full review will provide an opportunity to clarify objectives, review alternatives, plus projected costs and hopefully, build strong consensus for this important project.

Once the project is fully reviewed, the BOS will have another chance to assess any changes that are recommended and to meet with the task force before voting to take the fiber optic network project to a Special Town Meeting for a referendum vote. We would also refer the project to the Board of Finance for their comments prior to the Special Town Meeting in accordance with administrative procedures in the Town Charter.

William F. Brennan  
First Selectman