

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

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 SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday June 28, 2023
Held Electronically

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell, Kimberley Healy

GUESTS: Jason Guerrero – USI Insurance, Town Administrator - Matt Knickerbocker

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

B. Public Comment

None.

C. Discussion and/or Action

- DOT – Dial-a-Ride Grant Application - Parks & Rec – Matt Knickerbocker
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed the proposed application for a DOT – Dial-a-Ride Grant for funds to assist with the operating costs of the Dial-a-Ride program. After discussion and review motion moved by Ms. Healy to have the First Selectwoman sign and submit the grant application. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
- Renewal Agreement State Partnership Plan 2.0 – Matt Knickerbocker
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed the Renewal Agreement State Partnership Plan 2.0. After review and discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to authorize the First Selectwoman to authorize the Renewal Agreement for the State Partnership Plan. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.
- Contract Renewal – CIRMA Liability LAP – Matt Knickerbocker
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed the recommended contract with CIRMA for liability insurance. He noted that contract cost was under the FY2024 budget and provided the benefit of a 3-year rate stabilization agreement. Insurance consultant, Jason Guerrero of USI Insurance, provided additional review and comment. After discussion and review, motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the contract for renewal with CIRMA for LAP as discussed. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

- Vendor Selection and Possible Contract Merwin Meadows Playground
Ms. Vanderslice noted 4 bids were received for the proposed playground at Merwin Meadows. Two bids were disqualified. One for late submission and one was incomplete. She shared the Parks and Recreation recommended Creative Recreation among the two qualified bids and requested approval from the board for the First Selectwoman to execute a contract to be prepared with Creative Recreation by Town Counsel in the amount of \$175,000. Motion to allow the First Selectwoman to execute a contract with Creative Recreation for the playground at Merwin Meadows. Motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.
- Appointments – Economic Development Commission
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed. After review, motion made by Mr. Cole seconded by Ms. Healy to appoint Donna Peterson and Joe Favarolo to the Economic Development Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell. After further discussion and review, motion carried 5-0.

D. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectwoman

- Update – State Lease for Allen's Meadow
Ms. Vanderslice noted the new lease must be approved by a special town meeting vote with an expected date in September.
- CT Siting Council Public Hearing for Verizon Tower – Public Comment-June 29th 6:30pm.
Ms. Vanderslice updated the board with a reminder that the public hearing on the Verizon Cell tower proposal is in the final stages of being reviewed by the CT Siting Council. Zoom meeting is on June 29, 2023. Evidentiary hearing at 2:00pm with Public Comment beginning at 6:30pm
- Ms. Vanderslice noted OPM had recently released FY2022 data for new residential housing permits Wilton ranked 7th highest in the state. She noted Fairfield County again led in the state and she recognized the work of the Wilton Planning & Zoning Commission members.

2. Selectmen/Selectwoman

Mr. Tartell

- Update – Sister City
Mr. Tartell gave an update to the board on his inquiries into area towns' participation in the Ukraine Aid International Sister Cities Program. See attached. A discussion followed amongst the board on whether to consider the program.

Mr. Nabulsi

None.

Ms. Healy

None.

Mr. Cole

None.

E. Public Comment

- Paul Hannah of Shagbark Place, who originally recommended the Ukraine Aid International (UAI) Sister City Program, expressed his support for the work of the UAI.
- Sara Curtis of Cannon Rd. asked for a clarification on two administrative matters.

F. Adjournment

Having no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Mr. Tartell at 5:06pm, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

Ukraine Sister City

Background Information

BOS Presentation

June 28, 2023

Assignment

Provide background information on Ukraine Sister city Program

- Determine the presence of a municipality policy or guideline
- Explore potential risks
 - Legal
 - Financial
- Identify potential benefits of the Sister City Program
- Outline how the Sister City Program works

Data Collection

Contacted:

- Weston
- Westport
- Fairfield
- Stamford
- Redding (Note Redding contacted because they do not have a Sister City Relationship with Ukraine)

Note: Current Fairfield County municipalities participating:

- Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Stamford, Westport, Weston

Key findings

- The Sister City initiative is new – launched in January 2023 and is expanding
- Each municipality thought it was a great idea:
 - Tremendous support from the local citizens (Stamford & Westport have large Ukrainian heritage populations)
 - No perceived risk
 - Patriotic: Help Ukraine fight to maintain Democracy against Russian aggression
- First Selectperson/Mayor defines the relationship
 - Agreement is usually defined through a proclamation/statement or communication from the First Selectperson/Mayor – No formal procedure exists
 - Town Council/Board of Selectmen do not need to approve. (Stamford Board of Representatives gave approval)
- The municipality partners with a local group of private citizens (steering committee) and supports communication.
- All fundraising activities and charitable donations are organized by local volunteers. Funds flow through Ukraine Aid International. The municipality has no financial involvement.
- Ukrainian Sister City documents results of all fundraising activities

Representative Quotes

First Selectwoman Nestor (Weston)

- The town is not obligated...no dollars touch the town. We only do things that are free.
- The steering committee is Weston volunteers
- I have the same relationship (with the Sister City Mayor) as I do with Jen Tooker

First Selectwoman Kupchick (Fairfield)

- There was no need to clear it...it is just a partnership
- The community is very excited. The steering committee does all the work.
- The town is not contributing, we simply are a sister city – we are promoting a sister city
- I don't see any downside. It is only feel good and nice...It's all about helping a country fight for Democracy.

Selectwoman Tooker (Westport)

- Westport was the first to sign on in November/December (2022)
- (Westport became involved) two young men, who are Westporters came to me and explained. We know the President & COO of UAI. They are both Westporters.

Extra Slides

A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Come Join us! Tickets are Free

SUN, JULY 9

1:00PM-DUSK

*Ukrainian American Club -
279 Kings Dr, Southport*



FREE Food

Grill - Pizza - Salad Bar - Ice Cream



FREE Limited Bar

Beer - Wine - Soft Drinks



Family-Friendly Activities

Games - Raffles - Auction - Lemonade Stand



All-Day Entertainment

Mike McGovern Band - Special Performances



VIP TICKET HOLDERS RECEIVE

- Premium Seating
- Commemorative Gift
- Full Ukrainian Inspired Meal
- Full Open Bar
- Exclusive access to VIP Guests & Speakers



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Senator Blumenthal
- First Selectwoman Tooker
- First Selectwoman Kupchick
- First Selectman Bindelglass
- Lyman Mayor Zhuravlev

FREE ADMISSION

VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE

Claim Your Tickets now, before they are gone!!

LYMAN

CT UKRAINE

AID



A heartfelt THANK YOU! to our Amazing Connecticut Communities:
Westport, Fairfield, Easton, Ridgefield, Greenwich, Stamford, and Weston
for the generous support of your Sister Cities in Ukraine



SCHEDULE:

- 1pm-3pm: FREE Lunch, Games, and Entertainment
- 3pm-6pm: Main Program and Speakers - Learn How CT is Helping Ukraine
- 6pm-7pm: Cocktail Hour

SPEAKERS:

- Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- Westport First Selectwoman Jen Tooker
- Fairfield First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchik
- Easton First Selectman David Bindelglass
- Lyman Mayor Oleksandr Zhuravlev

Mission: Ukraine Aid International

The world has come together to bring aid to Ukraine.

We bring it the rest of the
way.

Last mile delivery is the biggest need for 2.5 million civilians still living near the front lines of the war.

Front line communities face similar challenges:

- Poor or nonexistent utilities: electricity, heat, clean water, internet
- Destroyed bridges, roads, and lack of critical infrastructure
- Devastated private homes, with some neighborhoods over 90% destroyed by shelling
- Lack of reliable commercial shipping routes
- Small working age population with a lot of elderly and children who need help

These problems make it difficult if not impossible for humanitarian aid donated from all over the world to reach the civilians who need it most.