

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Lori A. Bufano
Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Selectman

Deborah A. McFadden
Selectwoman

Ross Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday January 6, 2020
7:00 PM
Meeting Room B - Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden, Ross Tartell

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Executive Session

Motion made by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Ms. Bufano, to interview Miriam Sayegh for a position of the Council on Ethics. All in favor and motion carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session at 7:14p.m.

C. Public Comment

None

D. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Cole second by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0 to approve consent agenda, as below, with a correction to the December 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes regarding the second on the motion to adjourn (motion to adjourn should read that Ms. Bufano second).

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Meeting – December 16, 2019

Gifts

- Zachary & Ruth Sachs - Fire Dept Gift Fund - \$350.00
- Horseshoe Pond

William & Sharon Gallagher - \$100.00	John & Therese Dicenzo - \$50.00
Tom and Maria Sinchak - \$75.00	Saul & Anne Pollack - 100.00
Niraj & Shefali Patel - \$50.00	Irene Newman - \$25.00
G. Peter & M.F. Mumbach - \$25.00	Christopher & Nancy Smith - \$50.00

Discussion and/or Action

1. Request for Support for Sale of State Property

Ms. Vanderslice introduced the topic by stating Hoffman Landscaping has been a long-term tenant of 647-651 Danbury Road, which is owned by the State. Hoffman and State DOT have been in discussions about the possible sale and purchase of property. State Representative Gail Lavielle explained the process for the state to sell a property, including new requirements that each property must have a separate bill and the General Assembly must hold a hearing prior to a vote. Attorney for Hoffman Landscaping, Ward Mazzucco, shared the company's desire to remain in Wilton and ensure stability for the company and their 100+ employees. The current lease allows the state to cancel with 30-day notice. A motion was made by Ms. McFadden and seconded by Ms. Bufano to authorize the First Selectwoman to express support on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for the sale of the property to Hoffman Landscaping. Carried 5-0.

2. Request for Plastic and Styrofoam Ban Ordinance-Wilton Go Green

Ms. Vanderslice noted Wilton Go Green had made inquiries to her office about two possible ordinances:

- Banning Single use plastic bags. State law bans the bags in 2021. This would ban the bags one year early.
- Banning Styrofoam. Question as to whether the BOS is interested in pursuing the topics.

Questions were raised about the impact on the town businesses, what discussions have been held with local businesses and how other communities are dealing with the issue. Ms. McFadden requested information on banning straws and stirrers. Mr. Tartell expressed concerns about the disabled, who require the use of straws. Ms. Vanderslice will invite Wilton Go Green to a future meeting.

3. 2020 BOS Regular, Budget and Tri-Board Meeting Dates

Ms. Vanderslice reported that the BOF will be moving their meeting to the second Tuesday of the month. Therefore, there would not be a conflict should the BOS move their second meeting to the third Tuesday of the month. Ms. Vanderslice proposed the attached calendar, which reflects meetings on the first Monday and third Tuesday with a couple of exceptions. A motion was made by Ms. McFadden and seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

4. 2020 Priorities

The committee discussed and agreed with the attached priorities. Ms. McFadden noted electric vehicles should be part of future discussions.

Mr. Tartell made a motion, Mr. Cole seconded, to change the order of the agenda to move item 6 to before item 5. Carried 5-0.

5. Proposed Review of Commission Sizes and Charges

Ms. Vanderslice introduced the agenda item by suggesting the Board update the charge for the boards and commissions to be consistent with the priorities previously discussed and budget objectives. She also suggested the need for a comprehensive review of commissions/boards, as there are issues with quorums on the larger commissions. For example, the work of the SIMM committee and the EDC has been delayed due to issues with achieving a quorum. She noted large committees may have functioned when people worked 9-5 and most households were one income, but that is no longer Wilton. She suggested how we operate should reflect the realities of the lives of the volunteers. Ms. Vanderslice suggested smaller appointed membership with a mechanism to allow interested individuals to participate. A discussion was held, including one specific to the EDC. The board members supported further investigation of this topic by Ms. Vanderslice and Sarah Gioffre from the First Selectwoman's office. During the discussion, Ms. Vanderslice noted that the POCD Executive Summary has been completed and is now available online on the P&Z and EDC pages.

6. Proposed Requirements for Fire Commission and Police Commission Appointees

Ms. Vanderslice presented the attached preferred backgrounds for both police and fire commissioners. A discussion was held during which the board expressed support for the attached. Mr. Tartell made a motion to accept the recommended backgrounds and seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

7. Proposed Review of Appointment Procedures

Ms. Vanderslice introduced the agenda item by noting she continues to hear from affiliated voters who would like to be able to be considered for appointment without going through the town committees. Ms. Vanderslice suggested, since the BOS is the appointing authority, BOS members should be able to recommend candidates for appointment and thereby remove barriers to serving. Ms. McFadden expressed her opposition to such, noting she does not feel there is a problem with the current procedures. Mr. Cole expressed concern that it may undermine the function of the town committees. Mr. Cole also questioned whether if reduced committee sizes might solve some of the issues noted by Ms. Vanderslice. No consensus was reached.

8. Appointments

Ms. Vanderslice recommended the appointment of former BAA Chair Warren Serenbetz to serve as an alternate for the upcoming BAA hearings. Motion by Mr. Tartell, second by Mr. Cole, to appoint Warren Serenbetz as an alternate to the BAA. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Vacancies-Economic Development Commission

Ms. Vanderslice announced the following vacancies: Economic Development Commission, Alternate on the ZBA.

E. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectwoman

- Ms. Vanderslice noted the IRS statistical data for 2017 was now available and showed the same trends as before: income lags 2007, population is declining and aging.
- A copy of the FY2019 Consolidated Audited Financial Report was provided to the members and has been placed online. Readers were encouraged to pay particular attention to page 41, which contains the breakdown of the general fund and page 68 for the financial results on a budgetary basis.
- WestCOG provided the required response to the Office of Policy and Management on regionalization with the required responses specific to regionalized dispatch and assessing.
- The BOF approved the necessary funding for the fire truck.

2. Selectmen

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden expressed her opposition to school athletic fees and her desire to celebrate receipt of the Sustainable CT award.

Mr. Cole

No Report

Ms. Bufano

No Report

Mr. Tartell

No Report

F. Public Comment

None

G. Adjournment

There being no further business Motion by Mr. Cole, second Ms. McFadden to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Tammy Cole

from video recording

Next Meeting – Tri-Board and Regular: January 21, 2020

Calendar Year 2020 Meeting Dates

Month	Date	Day	Atl	Comments
January	6	Monday		
January	21	Tuesday		immediately following Tri-board meeting
February	3	Monday		
February	18	Tuesday		
March	2	Monday		
March	16	Monday	17th	immediately following possible Pension Trustee Mtg
April	6	Monday		Early start to allow attendance at Mil Rate Mtg
April	21	Tuesday		
May	4	Monday		
May	19	Tuesday		immediately following possible Pension Trustee Mtg
June	1	Monday		immediately following possible Tri-Board Meeting*
June	16	Tuesday		
July	21	Tuesday		No meeting on July 6th. If req'd special meeting on alternate date
August	3	Monday		
August	18	Tuesday		
September	8	Tuesday		day after Labor Day
September	22	Tuesday		immediately following possible Pension Trustee Meeting
October	5	Monday		
October	20	Tuesday		immediately following possible Tri-Board Meeting*
November	2	Monday		
November	17	Tuesday		
December	7	Monday		immediately following possible Pension Trustee Mtg
December	22	Tuesday		

*As an alternative, the three boards may choose to rotate the Tri-Board meeting prior to each board's regular meeting

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: Priorities

- **Develop an efficient proposed FY2021 budget that 1-supports the needs of the Town, 2- meets residents' expectation as to levels of service, and 3-at an acceptable cost to the taxpayers**
 - Address rising health care costs
 - Address rising waste management costs, including a focus on reduction of waste
- **Develop plan to meet current and long-term infrastructure needs, including**
 - Recreational facilities (including, stadium track, Middlebrook tennis courts, Merwin Meadows and Schencks, subject to SIMM recommendations)
 - Municipal and school buildings
 - Roads
 - Bridges
- **Advance economic development, including**
 - Master planning for Wilton Center, the area around the Wilton Center train station and surrounding RT 7
 - Evaluation of town owned property at the intersection of RT 7 and Station Road
 - Improved marketing of Wilton
 - Explore regional approaches to marketing
 - Completion of pedestrian bridge
- **Identify and explore shared services or facilities with surrounding communities, including**
 - Waste management
 - Additional Virtual Net Metering opportunities
 - Purchasing
- **Strategy for appropriate and adequate cell service**
 - Cell coverage
 - Cell equipment
- **Monitor State activity and initiatives which could impact Wilton**
- **Examine and evaluate appointed boards and commissions to improve member experience and service to the community**
- **Continued improvement in the use of technology**

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: First Draft for Discussion

Per Town Charter the Fire and Police Commissions have operating authority related to the Fire and Police departments, respectively. Please see attached charter sections on their exclusive powers. Based on these powers, the following are recommended backgrounds for each of the commissions:

Preferred Backgrounds for Fire Commission Members-First Draft

All members:

- Ability to work cooperatively
- Ability to be objective and make fact-based decisions
- Ability to deal with contentious or difficult situations
- Ability to understand financial information
- Experience with interviewing/hiring/terminating employees
- Ability to attend regular commission meetings and flexible enough to attend special meetings

At least two members:

- Operational management experience with responsibilities for staff, budgets and decision making

Other, preferred:

- Experience with a union or union environment
- Public safety experience, volunteer or professional

Preferred Backgrounds for Police Commission Members-First Draft

All members:

- Ability to work cooperatively
- Ability to be objective and make fact-based decisions
- Ability to deal with contentious or difficult situations
- Ability to understand financial information
- Experience with interviewing/hiring/terminating employees
- Ability to attend regular commission meetings and flexible enough to attend special meetings

At least two members:

- Public safety or related legal experience or training
- Operational management experience with responsibilities for staff, budgets and decision making

Other, preferred:

- Completion of Citizen Police Academy or willingness to attend
- Experience with a union or union environment