

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter **ABSENT:** Selectman Susan Bruschi

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies, Tom Thurkettle, Dr. Gary Richards, Ken Post, Gil Bray, Cathy Pierce, George Ciaccio, Town Attorney Ken Bernard, approximately 15 members of public, Jan Andras

OTHERS: Christian Camarota (Patch), T. J. Buzzeo (The Daily Wilton)

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read a statement regarding the recent drowning of two Wilton citizens. A press conference was held at 3:00 pm this afternoon at the Police Department. He thanked all of the Wilton emergency services personnel, including Police, Fire, EMS and CERT who labored for three days during the search. He also thanked the Westport PD Dive Team and the Norwalk Fire and Police who provided mutual aid.

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Mr. Creeth, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of September 20, 2010

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Taxes as per Tax Collector Memo dated 9/21/10
- Motor Vehicle Taxes as per Tax Collector Memo dated 9/21/10
- Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Taxes as per Tax Collector Memo dated 9/24/10

Gifts

- Donation of \$25 from David and Dina Levi to the Fire Department Gift Fund
- Donation of \$16,137 from the Wilton Lacrosse Association and the Wilton Soccer Association for a new scoreboard at Lilly Field

These two donations are very much appreciated.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Status Report on Bus Barn Tank Leak and Replacement Plans

Mr. Brennan gave some background info, reminding that this tank is 18 years old and all in-ground tanks have to be pulled after 20 years. Schools Superintendent Gary Richards stated that two good decisions were made when this leak was discovered: 1) a consultant was hired to assist in the DEP process in order to receive state reimbursement and 2) an above-ground tank will be installed with a 30 year life expectancy.

Mr. Brennan moved to authorize expenditures up to \$247,000 to pay current invoices for replacement of the School Bus Barn fuel tank. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

2. Wilton Commons Option to Lease

In November 2007, a Special Town Meeting was held to consider extending the Option Agreement between Wilton Commons, Inc. and the Town of Wilton for 36 months – From 12/8/07 to 12/8/10. Mr. George Ciaccio, Chairman of Wilton Commons, Inc. gave an update on this project. His committee will be meeting with the CHFA Board on 10/28/10 and expects to receive funding assistance from them which will allow the project to proceed. However, it will not be possible to have everything in order by the 12/8/10 date. Mr. Brennan advised that it will be necessary to call a Special Town Meeting, after approval of the BOS, to extend the agreement.

Mr. Creeth moved to approve extension of the Option Agreement between Wilton Commons, Inc. and the Town of Wilton for one year, to expire on 12/8/11. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. An STM will be called before 12/8/10.

3. Reusable Shopping Bags – Set Date for Public Information Meeting

Mr. Hoffstatter stated that a suggestion was made to him to ban free bags (paper and plastic) and stores institute a per bag charge to those who want them. The stores would keep the bag funds, it would not be a tax. Mr. Brennan stated that he is not comfortable with any cost that goes back to consumers. Mr. Clark is concerned about doing anything before the state has taken action. He would prefer to see a major educational campaign for re-usable bags. Mr. Clark and Mr. Creeth are both members of the Energy Commission and will bring up the subject at their next meeting.

4. Consideration of Appointments

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint the following: Mr. Elisa Miret-Pollino and Richard Reiter to the Inland Wetlands Commission; and Christopher Hulse to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

5. Miscellaneous Other Business

STEAP Grant – The Town has been awarded \$200,000 in STEAP Grant funds for curbs/paving on River Road. Mr. Brennan thanked CFO Sandy Dennies for putting the application together in a short amount of time.

FEMA – The Town will be receiving \$244,000 in FEMA funds as a result of the April storms.

MOODY'S – The Town has once again received the Aaa bond rating. However, the report noted that dropping the undesignated fund balance below 10% could threaten this rating.

Trackside – The committee will be invited to the next meeting to report on progress to utilize this facility more effectively.

Library Board – Chris Hevesey has resigned from the board and there are three possible candidates for the vacancy. Interviews will be arranged for the next BOS meeting before an appointment is made.

November Meeting – Mr. Brennan will not be available for the 11/15/10 meeting and will ask Second Selectman Susan Bruschi to serve as Chairman.

C. Public Comment:

Mr. Milton Pohl, Hurlbutt Street – Regarding the Wilton Commons project, he feels that the Town should not be “dispensing charity” to those outside of Wilton who could move into this development.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report :

Train Station – Should be finished by the end of the month.

Route 33/7 – Work is underway on the bridge and at Crossways.

415 Danbury Road – Almost complete and ready for rental.

405 Danbury Road (Marvin Tavern) – Some grading to be done in the front. The gas line has been buried. The building will be power washed and the trim painted before being ready for rental.

VMG – The monuments are being delivered and installed tomorrow. Another \$12,000 in donations is needed. The dedication ceremony is planned for 11/11.

2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Creeth: He has become involved in some of the meetings with Sandy Dennies and John Savarese regarding software needs for the Town.

Mr. Clark: No report

Mr. Hoffstatter: “Walk Wilton” to Support the 350.org Global Celebration will be held this coming weekend.

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary