

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 MEETING**  
**Tuesday September 20, 2022**  
**Held Electronically**

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

**GUESTS:** Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield, Noah Fouad – Representing the Fire Union, Sarah Taffel-Director HR, Labor Relations & Administrative Services, Laura Wildman and Anthony Allen - Save the Sound, Michael Chelminski - Stantec Consulting, Environmental Director-Mike Conklin, Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker

A. Call to Order

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

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to change the agenda to insert a new item after item A as item B – Fire Grievance and change the remaining item letters accordingly. Motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Fire Grievance – Sarah Taffel and Chief Blanchfield

Sarah Taffel and Chief Jim Blanchfield reviewed the Fire Grievance. Ms. Taffel noted that the grievance involved a request to carryover of personal leave which was denied by the Fire Chief and the Fire Commission. Noah Fouad, representing the Firefighters' union, noted he had no further statement to make noting the written statement speaks for itself. Further discussion with Ms. Taffel & Chief Blanchfield.

C. Executive Session to Discuss Fire Grievance, Lease for Allen's Meadow and Candidates for the WLA Trustee Vacancy

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to move to Executive Session at 7:15pm to Discuss Fire Grievance, Lease for Allen's Meadow and Candidates for the WLA Trustee Vacancy and invite Ms. Taffel and Chief Blanchfield for the Fire Grievance discussion. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in Regular Session at 7:43pm.

D. Public Comment

None

E. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes
  - Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – September 7, 2022
- Refunds – As per Tax Collectors Memo dated – September 16, 2022

F. Discussion and/or Action

1. Fire Grievance

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion on the Fire Grievance. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell to deny the carryover of personal leave because the Fire Commission decision was not a violation of the contract. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

2. Strong Pond Dam Removal MOU – Town of Wilton and Save the Sound – M. Conklin  
Mr. Conklin noted that phase I of the project has been completed and now ready for Phase II. Town Counsel drafted the proposed MOU between Save the Sound and the Town for phase 2. Mr. Conklin introduced Laura Wildman and Anthony Allen of Save the Sound and Michael Chelminski from Stantec, the consultant on the project. Further discussion and Q&A on the project. After discussion, motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi to approve the MOU and authorize the First Selectwoman to sign. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

3. Update – CT DOT Lease for Property at Allen's Meadow  
No action taken.

4. Update – Verizon Proposed Cell Tower at the Bus Barn  
Ms. Vanderslice noted the red balloon test was conducted. Verizon will be sharing photos taken from multiple locations as required to be submitted to the CT Siting Council as a component of the Visibility Analysis.

5. Role of Economic Development Commission  
Ms. Vanderslice provided an overview of similar commissions in surrounding towns and her recent discussions with EDC. See attached. She proposed a change in the Boards' expectations of the volunteer EDC and recommended the EDC be assigned specific tasks under her supervision, with flexibility to pursue other initiatives.

6. BOF Meeting – Budget Discussions  
Ms. Vanderslice shared she had watched the BOF September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and concluded the BOF will not likely provide mill rate or budget guidance prior to the start of the budget. She noted the BOF discussed the need for specific information from both boards before making any decisions. Ms. Vanderslice recommended the Board assume the BOF will increase their typical mill rate target of +/- 1.5% for the impact of increased debt service.

7. BOS Priorities FY2023  
Ms. Vanderslice noted Mr. Nabulsi agreed to assume the effort to obtain the progress made by various boards and commissions on the POCD action. Mr. Nabulsi reviewed his thoughts on the effort, noting the timing was likely after the spring of 2023.

8. Possible BOS Wilton Library Board Trustee Appointment  
Motion moved by Mr. Cole to appoint William Lalor as BOS Wilton Library Board Trustee. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi to reappoint Christine Wachter as BOS Wilton Library Board Trustee. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

G. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

Ms. Vanderslice shared Wilton had volunteered to serve as a pilot community for the WestCOG Broadband Project. Associated costs would be funded by a grant received by WestCOG.

Ms. Vanderslice discussed the groundbreaking event that took place at ASML

Ms. Vanderslice noted the Wilton Police Dept achieved a landmark as for the first time the department has 6 active female officers.

Ms. Vanderslice noted Wilton remained at Level 2 Drought.

2. Selectmen

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy attended Police Appreciation Day Event at Beth Israel Chabad of Westport/Norwalk to honor and recognize the Police Departments serving our community. Event was well attended.

Mr. Nabulsi

Mr. Nabulsi noted his appreciation for the Fire Department representatives that hosted the 911 Ceremony. He noted the ceremony was well attended.

Mr. Cole

None.

Mr. Tartell

None.

H. Public Comment

None.

I. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm. Motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

## Economic Development Commission

- **Area communities without a commission:**

- **Westport**-no commission
- **New Canaan**-no commission
- **Darien**-no commission
- **Weston**-no commission

- **Area communities with a commission**

- **Ridgefield:** “seven-member commission with the purpose...to seek to implement orderly and planned economic development, in keeping with the character of the town.”
  - Broadband study...Collaborate with Non Profits on Events...Opinions on development project...Welcome cards to new residents
  - Seeking to increase commission to 9 members.
- **Fairfield:** seven-members, one vacancy, “tasked with the promotion and development of the economic resources of the Town of Fairfield”.
  - Receive reports from ED director and chamber of commerce....Opinions on zoning changes....Investigating Taste of Fairfield and possible new restaurant

Note: Norwalk has a committee called the Economic and Community and Development Committee, but they are council members performing a different role than a traditional EDC.

## Economic Development Commission

### • Discussion with Commission

- *Need more direction from the town.*
- *Prefer being assigned tasks.*
- *Willing to do some advocacy work.*
- *Want to continue with current work, including Instagram, working with WHS, assisting with events, as with the Duck Race and holding business owner forums, as previously held with primarily Kimco tenants to flush out issues.*
- *Don't see themselves as a driver of grand list growth.*

### • Recommendation

- *Board of Selectmen should adjust their expectations of volunteers and this commission's role in grand list growth, marketing and supporting the POCD.*
- *Under the supervision of the first selectwoman, assign the commission discrete tasks.*
  - First task: Research and develop signage recommendations for submission to P&Z.
    - Expand on their existing research of other towns
    - Gather feedback from Wilton businesses