

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 January 24, 2023
Held Electronically

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

GUESTS: Police Captain/Executive Director Tom Conlan, Wilton Library Representatives – Rob Sanders (President), Caroline Mandler (Executive Director) and Mike Boswood (Treasurer), Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker, CFO Dawn Norton

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to add an agenda item - 2023 Eversource Vegetation Management Plan as item D-9. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

B. Public Comment

None

C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda, amending the January 9, 2023 BOS Meeting Minutes, correcting motion under item 11-Re-issuance of Civility, Respect and Understanding Proclamation "seconded by Mr. Cole" should read "seconded by Mr. Tartell".

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Meeting – January 9, 2023
- Refunds
 - As per Tax Collectors Memo dated – January 17, 2023
- Gifts
 - Fred & Carole Sindel – Fire Dept Gift Fund - \$500.00
 - Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program – Wilton Food Pantry - \$33.00
 - Ellen Raleigh – CERT - \$100.00
 -

Ms. Vanderslice thanked all for their gifts.

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Proposal to Purchase Replacement Body Worn Cameras – Captain Tom Conlan
Captain Tom Conlan reviewed the proposal to purchase replacements for body worn cameras. He noted the proposed purchase of 34 new cameras at a cost of \$50,000 to be paid from asset forfeiture funds. He noted that the Police Commission approved the purchase. Mr. Cole moved a motion to move expenditure of \$50,000 from the \$130,000 of Asset Forfeiture Funds for the purchase of the replacement of body worn cameras. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
2. Budget Overview
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the attached presentation. Further review with the board providing input.
3. Presentation of Budget Request – Wilton Library Association
President Rob Sanders, Treasurer Mike Boswood and Executive Director Caroline Mandler presented on behalf of the Library. Mr. Boswood presented the WLA's budget/grant request (see attached).
4. Approvals for New Lease at Allen's Meadow
Ms. Vanderslice noted CT DOT had approved the community gardens, a turf field, lighting and a bubble for the new lease for Allen's Meadow.
 - Preliminary Thoughts on Funding for Turf Field and Bubble
Ms. Vanderslice noted an RFQ for an engineering firm to prepare design options and estimated costs would be developed by DPW Director Frank Smeriglio, working with Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker, Parks & Recreation Department Director Steve Pierce, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair John Macken, and Amenities Master Plan committee member Scott Lawrence. She noted the members had previously committed to recommend bonding for a turf field to the Annual Town Meeting. She presented for consideration possible means of funding in addition to bonding.
5. Proposed Contract – Schenck's Island Parking Lot
Item Tabled.
6. Proposed Contract – Fence Replacement (Back of Town Hall)
Mr. Knickerbocker noted that the fence had deteriorated and in need of replacement. Three quotes were received and he is recommending approval of a contract with Riverside Fence for \$16,000 for the replacement of the fence. After review and discussion, motion moved by Ms. Healy to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the contract for \$16,000 with Riverside Fence. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.
7. Proposed Contract for Revaluation – Vision Appraisal
Mr. Knickerbocker noted that the contract for revaluation services at a cost of \$126,800 had been reviewed by Town Counsel. After discussion, motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the contract for \$126,800 with Vision Appraisal to get the revaluation process started. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
8. Proposed Electric Supply Agreement – Matt Knickerbocker
Mr. Knickerbocker noted in light of Eversource's announced increase in supply costs, he had bid electric supply. He recommended an agreement with ENGIE Resources at the

pre-supply increase price for 11-months beginning February 1, 2023. Contract reviewed by Town Counsel. After review and discussion, motion made by Mr. Cole to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the Master Electric Sales Agreement with ENGIE LLC. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.

9. 2023 Eversource Vegetation Management Plan – Matt Knickerbocker
Mr. Knickerbocker reviewed the 2023 Eversource Vegetation Management Plan, which is primarily focused on southwest and southeast Wilton. The Plan's goal is to reduce power outages.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectwoman

Ms. Vanderslice congratulated Lieutenant Tom Cassin on his retirement after 37 years of service with the Wilton Fire Department

Ms. Vanderslice congratulated Chief John Lynch on his retirement after 38 years of service with the Wilton Police Department.

Ms. Vanderslice congratulated incoming Chief of Police Tom Conlan and incoming Deputy Chief of Police Rob Cipolla on their promotions.

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the photos from the second red balloon float for the proposed cell tower at the Bus Barn. Photos made available on the town website. The more southern location is more desirable. Verizon to attend next meeting to present site plan revision options.

Ms. Vanderslice noted the pilot Food Scrap Program at the transfer station

Ms. Vanderslice noted the upcoming panel discussion on February 6th sponsored by Wilton Social Services, Wilton Youth Council and several others.

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed concerns about Proposed Senate Bill 630, which would terminate the Norwalk Transit District and transfer operations to CT DOT. In addition to bus transportation, the District provides transportation for residents with disabilities.

2. Selectmen/Selectwomen

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy spoke to a recent article in Good Morning Wilton about the Wilton Public School's request for a waiver as allowed under the 2021 Right to Read Act. She noted she is a member of the State Leadership Reading Implementation Council and has reached out to local representation for changes to the legislation to simplify the waiver process.

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell noted the Library/Historical Society lecture series, A Rocky Road – The Struggle for Rights in America which kicks off January 29, 2023. He also noted Wilton Pride's event Ask Me Anything on February 2, 2023.

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole noted the Chamber of Commerce Winter Carnival on February 5, 2023 from 12:00pm – 4:00pm on the Town Green

Mr. Nabulsi

Mr. Nabulsi noted Wilton Go Green's annual community recognition and celebration will recognize Wilton's Sustainable CT Silver status. He shared that event will satisfy his suggestion the achievement be celebrated.

G. Public Comment

None

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Ms. Healy at 9:00pm, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

FY2024 Budget Overview

FY2024 Mill Rate Projections

- This past fall, the BOF projected a **4% FY2024 mill rate increase** based on various assumptions, including budget increases of **2% for BOS** and **BOE of 3%**.
- Following **various changes** in assumptions, including **BOE at 6%**, the **revised projection** is now a **5% to 6% increase in the mill rate**.
- The **BOF hasn't provided guidance** on the projections or the BOS budget expectations.
 - *The **BOF voted 4-2** to recommend a FY2023 BOE budget with a 2.21% increase. The two no votes, (Stroup and Arkell) thought the budget was too low.*
 - *The **BOF voted 4-1** to recommend a FY2023 BOS budget with a 1.37% increase. The one no vote, Arkell, implied the budget was too high. Stroup was absent.*
 - *The **BOF voted 4-2** to recommend a FY2023 Mill Rate with a 1.293% increase. Stroup and Arkell voted no.*

FY2024 Budget Overview

FY2024 Mill Rate Projections

- The BOF intends to **survey residents in early March.**
- Results of **past surveys** include,
 - **2022** survey results: 554 respondents. Although 71% approved of BOS increase and 58% approved of BOE increase, only **47% approved of the resulting mill rate increase of 1.94%.** BOF recommended **1.29%** to the ATM.
 - **2019** PODC telephone survey [results](#). **Q-Major issues impacting quality of life? 29% taxes and spending too high.**
 - **2018** survey results: 1411 respondents. **55% open to 1% mill rate increase. 42% open to 2%. 32% open to 3%.**

FY2024 Budget Overview

FY2024 Mill Rate Projections

- What is **unknown** that might significantly **impact the mill rate**?
 - *Final **BOS and BOE recommended budgets**-due March 3rd.*
 - *Offered assistance to BOE to seek grants for security cameras.*
 - ***October 1, 2022 grand list**-due end of February.*
 - ***Interest rate and amount for new borrowings**-available in mid-March.*
 - ***Estimate for revenue from supplemental motor vehicle tax**-available after Jan 31st.*
 - ***Estimates for conveyance and building permit revenue**.-estimated for March 3rd and April deliberations.*
 - ***FY2023 forecasted excess revenue** available to fund FY2024 budget-estimated for public hearings and BOF budget deliberations.*

FY2024 Budget Overview

Two to Three Year Horizon

- **Continued focus on grants and reasonable grand list growth to assist in minimizing tax increases.**
 - ***Grants***
 - **\$26 million** in awarded grants **2019 thru 2022**
 - Approximately **\$1.8 million in avoided debt service** in FY2024.
 - ***Organic grand list growth***
 - In Progress
 - ASML-FY2024 and beyond
 - 141 Danbury Road-FY2025
 - Possible
 - 12 Godfrey Place
 - Kimco

FY2024 Budget Overview

Two to Three Year Horizon Areas of Concern

- **October 1, 2023 Revaluation-(FY2025 Budget)**
 - *Home values expected to increase.*
 - *Commercial office buildings values expected to decrease.*
 - *Motor vehicle values expected to decrease with new valuation method. Reversal of much of the October 1, 2021 increase for motor vehicles.*
 - *Residential property will likely increase as a share of the grand list.*

FY2024 Budget Overview

Two to Three Year Horizon

Areas of Concern

- ***Proposed legislation***

- Noting a **change in tactics** with the bills to encourage certain actions. **Carrot** or a **stick and carrot approach**. Could impact our ability to obtain grants or same level of grants.
 - [DesegregateCT Proposed Bill](#): If you adopt a higher density transit-oriented community, you will be eligible for TBD grants. If you don't adopt, you won't be eligible for discretionary transportation grants.
 - \$23.5 million of the grants received since 2019 have been discretionary transportation grants.
 - [Encourage School Regionalization Bill](#): Reduces school building funding percentage by 20 points for any town with a population of 25,000 that has not regionalized and has a high school under control of a local board of education and increases school building reimbursement funding by 20 points for five year to any town the agrees.
 - [Encourage Affordable Housing](#): Additional school building reimbursement funding for districts in municipalities with 6% or more percent affordable housing.

Change to the State Partnership Plan for Municipal Employee Medical Insurance

- As of **July 1, 2020**, all town employees with a medical insurance benefit were moved to the **State Partnership Plan**. Rationale,
 - *Lower cost for the town. Estimated annual savings of \$600,000 per year.*
 - *Lower cost for the employees.*
 - *No loss of benefits.*
- Since July 1, 2020, Wilton
 - *FY2021 claims to premium ratio of 137% (Oct 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020).*
 - *FY2022 claims to premium ration of 150%.*
 - *Premiums flat for FY2022.*
 - *10% increase in premiums for FY2023.*
- Total Plan claims to premium ratio
 - *FY2020 94.4%.*
 - *FY2021 91.2%.*
 - *FY2022 106%.*
 - *FY2023 actuarially estimated to be 98%.*

1/12/2023

WLA 2023/24 Budget

Talking points

- The FY24 budget is a 'post COVID' budget with FY23 providing apples to apples comparisons
- Inflationary pressures are impacting building and technology costs
- Proposed expenditure includes additional staff to support program expansion and continued investment in the Brubeck Archive and associated activities

Total revenue increases by 4.9%%

- Town grant increases by 2.9%%
- Book sale/other revenue up 20%
 - Book sales revenue returns to pre COVID level after substantial recovery in FY23
 - Other revenue buoyed by increased facility rentals
- Development increases 9% resulting from
 - Annual appeal up 9% reflecting full impact of Razor's Edge donor management system
 - 'Other' donations up 20% in line with FY22 level
 - Fundraising budget down 7% based on two major events, with likelihood that FY23/24 is an 'off' year for the Gala and an 'on' year for Casino Night and a Spring Soiree

Total costs increase by 4.9%%

- <1% increase in salaries and benefits with 3% salary increase and addition of 1.5 FTEs offset by reductions in number of payroll periods and pension costs
- Building cost increase of 36.5% due to inflation in utilities and addition of contract labor to cover night shift (but 'only' 7% above FY23 forecast)

Expenditure on collection materials and library programs increases by 4.5% over FY23

**Wilton Library Association
Budget Proposal FY' 23/24**

	21/22 Actual	Approved 22/23 Budget	Proposed 23/24 Budget	\$ change FY'23-FY'24	% change FY'23-FY'24
REVENUE					
Outside Revenue:					
Town Grant	2,722,000	2,894,761	2,977,471	82,710	2.86%
Book Sale/Other Revenue	186,605	175,475	210,575	35,100	20.00%
Subtotal	2,908,605	3,070,236	3,188,046	117,810	3.84%
Development:					
Annual Appeal	234,651	275,000	300,000	25,000	9.09%
Other Donations	351,461	250,000	300,000	50,000	20.00%
Fundraising Events	0	150,000	140,000	-10,000	-6.67%
Subtotal	586,112	675,000	740,000	65,000	9.63%
TOTAL REVENUE	3,494,717	3,745,236	3,928,046	182,810	4.88%
EXPENSES					
Salaries & Benefits	2,261,012	2,599,536	2,613,846	14,310	0.55%
Building Utilities & Maint	229,828	211,700	289,000	77,300	36.51%
Technology & Supplies	163,921	173,000	194,200	21,200	12.25%
Insurance, Audit & Other	89,195	86,000	91,000	5,000	5.81%
Library Programs & Support	474,911	470,000	533,000	63,000	13.40%
Development & Fundraising	103,958	135,000	137,000	2,000	1.48%
Tech Special Projects/ Reserve	7,295	70,000	70,000	0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,330,120	3,745,236	3,928,046	182,810	4.88%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	164,597	0	0		