

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 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
Monday June 5, 2023
Comstock Room 31

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi(via Zoom), Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Coordinator of Community Affairs – Sarah Gioffre, Public Works Director/Town Engineer - Frank Smeriglio, Town Administrator - Matt Knickerbocker, CFO - Dawn Norton

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.
- B. Reading of Legal Notice
Mr. Tartell read the attached legal notice.
- C. Presentation of Program Applications
Ms. Gioffre gave a brief description of the program and presented the 2023 submitted applications. Mr. Nabulsi recused himself from any discussion/voting regarding one of the applicants listed (Montessori) as he is a past board member and his wife is currently an employee of the Montessori School.
- D. Public Comment
None
- E. Adjourn
There being no further business, motion to adjourn moved, seconded and carried 5-0 at 7:06pm.

REGULAR MEETING

- A. Call to Order
Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.
- B. Public Comment
None.

C. Executive Session - Interviews

- Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for interviews for the Economic Development Commission and invite Donna Peterson and Joe Favarolo. Motion moved by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in Regular Session at 8:24pm.

D. Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Meeting – May 16, 2023, 2023

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. 2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Credit Program Applications – Sarah Gioffre
Ms. Gioffre requested the Board of Selectmen approve the 2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program applications as submitted in the Public Hearing. After further review and discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole seconded by Mr. Tartell to approve and recommend the applications for the 2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Credit Program as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Nabulsi back in Regular Session meeting at 8:26pm

2. Interest Rate for Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Tax Deferrals
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed. Ms. Vanderslice recommended keeping the rate at the current 2.75%, which is in line with previous years. After review and discussion, motion made by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell to maintain the rate under the program at 2.75% for deferred taxes. Ms. Vanderslice amended the motion to say new deferrals. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Approval to Create a Purchase Order for 5 Ton Western Star Dump Truck (\$287,235). PO for FY2024
Mr. Knickerbocker & Mr. Smeriglio reviewed purchase order to be dated July 1, 2023 for the 5 Ton Western Star Dump Truck at a total cost of \$287,235. After further review and discussion motion moved by Mr. Cole, to authorize a purchase order for the 5 Ton Western Star Dump Truck for \$287,235 as of July 1, 2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.
4. Financial Update
Ms. Norton reviewed the attached report, including forecasted favorable revenues of \$700,000 and Board of Selectmen expense budget favorability of \$200,000 Discussion amongst the board and Ms. Norton. Ms. Vanderslice recommended the board not draw down the medical reserve as budgeted for FY2023 to the extent there is actual budget savings. She recommended the draw down instead be budgeted for FY2025.
5. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal's Recommended \$938,999 CDSG for the New Police Headquarters
Ms. Vanderslice noted Senators Murphy and Blumenthal recommended the town's application for a FY2024 Congressional Directed Spending grant for the construction of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the new Wilton Police Headquarters. She noted if Wilton awarded, the amount of bonding required for the Police

Headquarters would be reduced by the amount of the grant. She expressed the town's gratitude to Senator Murphy and Blumenthal and their staff for their support. She also thanked Congressman Himes and his staff as well for their support with these grants.

6. Legislative Session – Blight and Housing Bills

Ms. Vanderslice noted she anticipates a favorable result on the proposed commercial property blight bill. She noted the CT House approved a bill containing the first step of the proposed Fair Share legislation, including an OPM analysis of required housing and allocation of the need to municipalities. The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration. She thanked Representative Keith Denning for his vote against the bill and for keeping her informed.

7. Park and Recreation Commission – Recommendation for Initial Work

Ms. Vanderslice reminded the board they had developed a two-pronged approach for the documented need for more and improved fields. One, bonding for a third turf field and the use of \$500,000 of ARPA funds to plan for and begin restoration of the five fields at Middlebrook. Following the defeat of the turf field bonding referendum, she recommended the board ask the Parks & Recreation Commission to reconsider priorities. The board agreed.

8. Update on Recently Issued RFQ's – Matt Knickerbocker

Mr. Knickerbocker updated the board on the status of the Merwin Meadows playground renovation, Town Hall and Annex repairs, the Cider Mill elevator repair and other school facility projects.

9. Possible EDC Appointments

Ms. Vanderslice noted that additional questions need to be resolved before moving forward with the EDC appointments. Appointments will be considered at the Next BOS meeting.

F. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectwoman

Ms. Vanderslice noted the Library would not have budget savings if they purchased under the town's contract. Possible \$35,000 reduction to the Library budget to be discussed at the next BOS meeting.

Ms. Vanderslice noted an upcoming ribbon cutting for the Pedestrian Bridge on June 15, 2023 at 4:00pm.

2. Selectmen/Selectwoman

Mr. Nabulsi

Mr. Nabulsi noted that he utilizes the Wilton train station and noted on Tuesday through Thursday the train station parking lot is relatively full.

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy noted the Ice Cream Social event held at the Library.

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell noted Pride Month and Juneteenth.

Mr. Cole

None.

G. Public Comment
None

H. Adjournment
Having no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Mr. Tartell at 9:05pm, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
2023 CT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

A public hearing will be held at the Town of Wilton Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm:

**Public Access to the meeting is In-Person
Or via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84432638840>

to hear proposals for inclusion in the 2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. Public comment can be made via Zoom by using the raise hand function when appropriate.

Dated at Town of Wilton this 19th day of May, 2023

2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program - Proposed Programs

Name of Organization	Program Name	Program Type	NAA Funding Request
A Better Chance of Wilton (ABC)	ABC Wilton Operating Expenses	Other: Education	\$ 15,000.00
Friends of Ambler Farm	Ambler Farm Nutrition Program	Program Serving Low Income Persons	\$ 12,650.00
Friends of the NRVT (Norwalk River Valley Trail)	Trail Design - The Ridge Route	Other: Outdoor Recreational Trail	\$ 22,000.00
Grumman Hill Montessori Association	2023 Window and Boiler Replacement	Energy Conservation	\$ 150,000.00
Mutual Housing Association of SW CT DBA CT Housing Partners	Wilton Congregate - Replacement of Malfunctioning Samsung VRF System with Mitsubishi	Energy Conservation	\$ 150,000.00
Riverbrook Regional YMCA	Roof Improvements for Wilton Y's Childcare Room	Energy Conservation	\$ 9,800.00
Trackside	Energy Efficiency Updates	Energy Conservation	\$ 34,000.00
Visting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County	Community Based Home Health Care and Hospice Care to Homebound Seniors	Program Serving Low Income Persons/Other	\$ 20,000.00
Wilton Congregational Church	Air Condenser Replacement Project	Energy Conservation	\$ 24,990.00
Wilton Education Foundation	Get Smart for Wilton 5K 2024	Other: Get Smart for Wilton 5K 2024	\$ 2,500.00
Wilton Go Green	Food Scrap Recovery For Restaurants	Other: Waste Diversion/Education/Support	\$ 4,500.00
Wilton Historical Society	Roof Replacement for c. 1727 Lambert House and 1852 Old Wilton Train Station	Energy Conservation	\$ 60,000.00
Wilton Land Conservation Trust	Finish Barn at 183 Ridgefield Rd; Install Heat Pump HVAC System	Energy Conservation	\$ 15,661.00
Wilton Library Association	Hands Free Restroom Fixtures	Energy Conservation	\$ 24,400.00
Wilton Library Association	Natural Gas Conversion	Energy Conservation	\$ 15,385.00
Wilton Soccer Association	Recreational and Travel Soccer Program	Child Care Services/Other	\$ 24,000.00
Wilton Warrior Gridiron Club	Wilton Football Booster Program	Other: Community Service	\$ 150,000.00
Wilton Youth Council	Middlebrook Youth to Youth	Other: Youth Substance Abuse, Prevention, Mental Health Promotion	\$ 6,600.00



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Dawn Norton, CFO

DATE: June 5, 2023

RE: FY 2023 May Finance Update

Revenue:

Revenues are currently forecast to be favorable to budget by approximately \$700k mainly due to favorability in Building Permits, Investment Income, and grant revenue that exceeded budget. This favorability is offset by a short fall in the collection of current and back taxes which is running approximately \$240k behind at the end of May vs. this time last year. We continue to see delinquencies with new LLC owners. This trend began last year. Hollie, our Manager of Assessing and Tax Collection, is on top of this and working to collect all delinquent taxes.

Expenditures:

Expenditures are currently projected to have a favorability at year end of approximately \$200k. This anticipated net savings is mainly due to vacant positions in the Police Department and turnover, offset by additional funding required to offset last year's Transfer Station Fund Balance deficit and an anticipated FY2023 deficit.

Bond Sale:

I am pleased to share that we had a very favorable Bond Sale that provided us with positive results of 3.19% vs. budget of 3.5% for FY 2024 allowing for a small savings. On May 16, 2023 we held a \$13.1 million bond sale which yielded competitive interest rates on the strength of Moody's reaffirmation of Wilton's Aaa rating with a stable outlook. We received 11 complete bids from various underwriting firms with the winning bid at 3.192003% from Robert Baird, Inc.

Budget Status Report Through 05/31/2023 - Summary	FY 23 Amended Budget	FY 23 Actual YTD	FY 23 Forecast	FY 23 Forecast to Amended Budget (Under)/Over
Revenue:				
Property Tax Revenue	123,640,850	122,992,831	123,400,000	(240,850)
Education	462,024	567,562	567,562	105,538
Licenses and Permits & Fees	1,555,461	1,663,958	1,670,000	114,539
Town Intergovernmental	971,758	1,193,461	1,193,461	221,703
Other Revenues	326,558	408,463	410,000	83,442
Interest	130,000	548,501	550,000	420,000
Investments	302,000	261,685	302,000	-
	127,388,651	127,636,461	128,093,023	704,372
Expense:				
Debt Service	9,546,875	9,052,738	9,546,875	-
Board of Education	86,677,862	77,177,232	86,677,862	-
Board of Selectmen	35,372,636	28,912,916	35,581,636	209,000
Board of Selectmen Capital	2,393,163	8,193	2,393,163	-
Charter Authority	1,296,464	-	-	1,296,464
	135,287,000	115,151,079	134,199,536	1,087,464