

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 MINUTES
Monday November 6, 2023**

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

GUESTS: Nicholas Bamonte-Berchem Moses, J.R. Sherman-WARF, Director/Town Engineer
Public Works-Frank Smeriglio, Town Administrator-Matt Knickerbocker, CFO-Dawn Norton

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Call to Order
Public Hearing called to order at 7:00pm.
- B. Proposed Change to Blight Ordinance
Ms. Vanderslice read the attached legal notice as it pertains to the Proposed Change to Blight Ordinance.
- C. Proposed Ordinance for Property Tax Credits for Mobility Vehicles
Ms. Vanderslice read the attached legal notice as it pertains to the Proposed Ordinance for Property Tax credits for Mobility Vehicles.
- D. Public Comment
No comments from the public
- E. Adjourn
There being no further discussion. Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to close out the public hearing. Motion to close the Public Hearing moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 4-0 at 7:03pm.

REGULAR MEETING

- A. Call to Order
Ms. Vanderslice called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to add an Item D7 to the Agenda – Authorization for Grant Application for the StoneBridge Rd Bridge and Item D8-Request to tie Blue Ribbons on Town-owned Trees Following Anti-Semitic Incidents. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 4-0.

Mr. Nabulsi joined the meeting at 7:04pm.

B. Public Comment

- Steven Georgeou of Cannon Rd commented and distributed information collected from residents on safety concerns on Cannon Rd.
- Tad Wampfler of Cannon Rd comment on the safety concerns on Cannon Rd
- Toni Boucher of Wicks End Lane commented on safety concerns on Cannon Rd
- Michael Fein of Springbrook Lane commented on the safety concerns un Cannon Rd
- James Bonine of Cannon Rd commended on the safety concerns on Cannon Rd
- Harry Clark of Old Highway commented on the concerns on Cannon Rd
- Tina Georgeou of Cannon Rd commented on the concerns on Cannon Rd
- Barbara L. Geddis of Cannon Rd commented on the concerns on Cannon Rd

Ms. Vanderslice noted she would share the information distributed with Police Commission Chair and Wilton Traffic Authority Chair Giovino and Police Chief Conlan and encouraged the residents to attend a Police Commission meeting.

C. Consent Agenda

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows amending the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023 under Selectmen's Report correcting "Mr. Healy" to read "Ms. Healy:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023
- Refunds
 - As Per Tax Collector's Memo dated November 1, 2023
- Gift
 - AED Donations – In A Heart Beat and More George

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Recommendation of a Vendor for the Pumper Engine Previously Approved for Bonding
Fire Chief Blanchfield reviewed with Ms. Vanderslice and Captain Brian Elliot providing additional input. Chief Blanchfield noted the Pumper Engine was approved by the Annual Town Meeting for \$950,000. Chief Blanchfield noted the Town used the same purchasing cooperative, as the ladder truck, and received two bids. Recommended entering a contract to purchase a Pierce pumper engine at the cost of \$924,551, subject to full payment at the time of the contract. After further discussion and review, motion moved by Mr. Tartell to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute a contract with Pierce for the Pumper Engine. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.
2. Update on Banner Program Managed by WARF and Proposed Revisions to Agreement with WARF
J.R. Sherman of WARF gave a brief review of WARF and the stadium banner sales program. Ms. Vanderslice noted the BOS had discussed revising the current agreement with WARF that proceeds from the banner sale be used for current field and recreational needs. Consensus for Ms. Vanderslice to provide a revised agreement.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to move Item 7-Authorization for Grant Application for the StoneBridge Rd Bridge ahead of Item 3. Motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

3. Authorization for Grant Application for the StoneBridge Rd Bridge
Mr. Smeriglio reviewed the grant application for the StoneBridge Rd Bridge. After review and discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to execute the application for the Grant for the StoneBridge Rd Bridge. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
4. Possible Change to Blight Ordinance
Ms. Vanderslice noted Public Hearing was held and no public comment was received. She asked for a motion to approve the proposed change to the Blight Ordinance as presented. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.
5. Possible Ordinance for Property Tax Credits for Mobility Vehicles
Ms. Vanderslice noted Public Hearing was held and no public comment was received. She asked for a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance for Property Tax Credits for Mobility Vehicles as presented. Motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.
6. Possible three-year Contract Extension for Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield
Ms. Vanderslice noted the Fire Commission recommended a three-year extension to Chief Blanchfield's contract, as previously discussed in an Executive Session. After discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to approve the three-year Contract Extension for Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.
7. Proposed 2024 Town Employee Holiday Schedule
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the Proposed 2024 Town Employee Holiday Schedule. Schedule was reviewed by Town Administrator and Department Heads. Mr. Cole noted the date was missing from "Columbus/Indigenous Day. Motion to approve the Proposed 2024 Town Employee Holiday Schedule as amended to note "October 14, 2023" for Columbus/Indigenous Day. Motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.
8. Request to Tie Blue Ribbons on Town-owned Trees Following Antisemitic Incidents
Ms. Vanderslice noted signs in support of Wilton's Jewish population has been stolen from residents' lawns. She received a request to tie blue ribbon in response. She noted the request was approved and reviewed with the BOS her rationale for approving was the incidents that had occurred in Wilton. Discussion with board on whether to do a motion for the request. All board in agreement with the approval of the request with no motion need.

E. Selectmen's Report

1. First Selectwoman
 - Increased Financial Assistance by Social Services and Increase in Participation at the Senior Center
Ms. Vanderslice noted increased use of the food pantry and applications for energy assistance. She also noted an increase in participation for the Senior Center's programs noting possible factoring, including Stephanie Rowe's new and creative programming and the BOS's decision to waive fees.
 - Noted the Quad Board Meeting scheduled for November 15, 2023 will likely be rescheduled.
2. Selectmen/Selectwoman
Mr. Tartell
Mr. Tartell noted election day on Tuesday November 7, 2023.

Mr. Healy
None.

Mr. Nabulsi
None.

Mr. Cole
None.

F. Public Comment

- Sara Curtis of Cannon Rd commented on the safety concerns discussed at the beginning of the meeting and thanked the board for allowing residents to speak on the issue.

G. Executive Session to Discuss Compensation for Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker
Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:25pm to Discuss Compensation for Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker.

Out of Executive Session and back in regular session at 8:39pm.

H. Compensation for Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker
Ms. Vanderslice made a motion to award Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker the maximum 5% bonus in his contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0.

Mr. Knickerbocker thanked the board for the award.

I. Adjournment
Having no further business, motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video