

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 SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday August 2, 2022
Held Electronically

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

GUESTS: Nicholas Bamonte-Berchem Moses, Director Public Works/Town Engineer-Frank Smeriglio, Fire Chief Jim Blanchfield, CFO Dawn Norton, Sarah Taffel-Director Human Resources, Labor Relations & Admin Services-Sarah

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

B. Update – Community Gardens – Atty Nicholas Bamonte

Nicholas Bamonte of Berchem Moses gave an update on his discussions with CT DOT regarding amending the lease between the Town and CT DOT to allow community gardens at Allen's Meadow. He noted the process could require several months. He further noted CT DOT has not indicated that they will force gardeners out during the process. Discussion amongst the board and Mr. Bamonte regarding the lease for Allens Meadow with the State DOT.

C. Public Comment

Members of the community commented on the Community Gardens update:

Leslie Chambers of Pelham Lane

Jamie Van Acker of Portland Ave.

Liz Craig of Cheese Spring Rd

Jim McSweeny of Chicken Street

Heather Herve of Good Morning Wilton had questions for Mr. Bamonte

Barbara Massey Bear of Indian Hill Rd.

Geoff Schneider of Hearthstone Lane

Ms. Vanderslice and Mr. Bamonte responded to questions.

D. Executive Session – Discussion of Proposed Tentative Agreements for the Labor Contracts, Litigation and Employee Compensation

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:49pm for a discussion of Proposed Tentative Agreements for Fire Union and Teamster Union labor contracts, litigation and employee Frank Smeriglio's compensation. Invite Chief Jim Blanchfield, Sarah Taffel and CFO Dawn Norton for fire union contract discussions. Invite DPW Director/Town Engineer Frank Smeriglio, Sarah Taffel and CFO Dawn Norton for

Teamsters discussion. Invite CFO Dawn Norton for litigation discussion. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in Regular Session at 9:15pm.

E. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Tartell seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended to show correction in adjournment to remove Ms. Healy moving the motion and show Mr. Tartell moving the motion to adjourn:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – July 19, 2022

F. Discussion and/or Action

1. Local Prevention Council Grant Application

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the Local Prevention Council Grant application, noting this is an annual grant and that Wilton Youth Council is the Town's designated Local Prevention Council. After further review and discussion, motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the submission of the grant application.

2. Possible Approval of the Tentative Agreements for the Teamsters and Fire Union Contracts

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell to approve the Tentative Agreement for the Teamsters Union Local 145 as discussed in Executive Session. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell to approve the Tentative Agreement for Firefighters Union Local 2230 – International Association of Fire Fighters as discussed in Executive Session. Ms. Vanderslice amended the motion to read Local 2233. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi as amended. As there were no further discussion, motion carried 5-0.

3. Possible COLA for Retirees

Mr. Vanderslice reviewed the attached presentation with the board. Ms. Taffel provided additional input. After discussion Ms. Vanderslice to provide additional information at a future meeting. Ms. Vanderslice thanked Ms. Taffel for her input.

4. Authorize Filing of Applications to ARB, ZBA and P&Z for the Police Headquarters Projects

Mr. Vanderslice noted she was seeking blanket authorization from the board to file the necessary applications for the police headquarters project with the necessary town boards and commission. Motion to authorize to First Selectwoman to file the necessary applications with ARB, ZBA and P&Z Commission to keep the Police Headquarters Project moving forward moved by Mr. Cole. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

5. Primary Election – August 9, 2022

Ms. Vanderslice noted the Primary Election is on Tuesday August 9, 2022. Information available on the town website.

6. Change/Name Change for Economic Development Commission

Board was provided with the actions in the POCD assigned to the EDC. To provide the Board members with more time to review the list, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to table this item. Motion to table item 6 until the next BOS meeting moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

G. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

- Recognized Parks & Recreation for this summer's concerts, movie nights and the circus. She discussed possible changes for next year to increase attendance.
- Noted a gaga pit was purchased for Merwin Meadows installed in response to letters received from Wilton 4th graders.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole echoed Ms. Vanderslice' comments on the events organized by Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Healy

None.

Mr. Nabulsi

None.

Mr. Tartell

None.

H. Public Comment

None.

I. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:51pm. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

Consideration of COLA for Pension Retires

- The increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Northeast for calendar year 2022 is expected to be in the range of 7 to 8%.
- The increase CPI for the Northeast for calendar year 2021 was 3.9%.
- The last increase in retiree pensions was 1% in FY2020 as of 1/1/2020.
- The following language applies to fire, ASFCME, BOE non-certified, Library and non-union retirees:
 - It shall be the policy of the Board of Selectmen *to review, at least once every four years, the effect of any increases in the Consumer Price Index, or similar indices of inflation, on the adequacy of a retiree's allowances*. Such review shall consist of, at the minimum, obtaining data on the magnitude of inflation since the most recent adjustment and cost estimates from the Plan actuary on appropriate and reasonable adjustments.
- The following additional language applies to police retirees:
 - The Board of Selectmen shall have the authority after considering the above factors, to adopt an adjustment and set the duration and extent of such adjustment, if any. No adjustment shall be adopted if the direct or indirect result of such adjustment would impair the actuarial soundness of the Plan.

Consideration of COLA for Pension Retirees

Increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Northeast for the last 25 years versus retiree pension increases

Previous 10 years

| Fiscal year | Northeast CPI* | Benefit Increase** |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2023 | 7% to 8%E | |
| 2022 | 3.90% | - |
| 2021 | 1.30% | - |
| 2020 | 1.60% | 1.00% |
| 2019 | 2.20% | - |
| 2018 | 1.80% | - |
| 2017 | 1.10% | - |
| 2016 | -0.01% | 0.50% |
| 2015 | 1.40% | 1.50% |
| 2014 | 1.40% | 1.25% |
| 2013 | 2.00% | 2.50% |
| | 16.69% | 6.75% |

11 to 25 years

| Fiscal year | Northeast CPI* | Benefit Increase** |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2012 | 3.00% | - |
| 2011 | 2.00% | - |
| 2010 | 0% | - |
| 2009 | 4.00% | 2.50% |
| 2008 | 2.60% | 1.98% |
| 2007 | 3.60% | - |
| 2006 | 3.60% | 3.00% |
| 2005 | 3.50% | - |
| 2004 | 2.80% | 2.30% |
| 2003 | 2.10% | 1.30% |
| 2002 | 2.80% | 2.86% |
| 2001 | 3.40% | 3.19% |
| 2000 | 2.10% | 1.45% |
| 1999 | 1.40% | 4.22% |
| 1998 | 2.40% | 4.00% |
| | 39.30% | 26.80% |

*calendar year ended 12/31 of the fiscal year

** July 1, except for 1/2020 in FY2020

Consideration of COLA for Pension Retires

- The July 1, 2021 Pension Valuation assumes a 2.5% increase in benefits.
- The purpose of the July 1, 2021 valuation was to develop the FY2023 budgeted Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC). Meaning the budgeted ADEC assumes a 2.5% increase in benefits.
- Current monthly benefits are \$465, 961 or \$5,5591,528 for 12 months.
- Impact of a September 1, 2022 COLA increase for retirees as of July 1, 2021:

| Possible FY23 COLA Rate | July-Aug | Sept-June | 12 months benefits | FY23 Effective Rate | Additional Benefits |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 0.00% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,659,610 | \$ 5,591,532 | | |
| 0.50% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,682,908 | \$ 5,614,830 | 0.42% | \$ 23,298 |
| 1.00% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,706,206 | \$ 5,638,128 | 0.83% | \$ 46,596 |
| 1.50% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,729,504 | \$ 5,661,426 | 1.25% | \$ 69,894 |
| 2.00% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,752,802 | \$ 5,684,724 | 1.67% | \$ 93,192 |
| 2.50% | \$ 931,922 | \$ 4,776,100 | \$ 5,708,022 | 2.08% | \$ 116,490 |

Consideration of COLA for Pension Retires

Other Information

- As of July 1, 2021 Plan's funded ratio was 102.6%
- As of July 1, 2021 actuarial value was \$135,382,084 with \$16,354,485 of net market gains not included.
- COLA can be permanent, just for the one year or a combination of both.
- Normal retirement benefits:

| | Benefit | Max |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Police | 2.5% of salary for each year | 76.5% of Salary |
| Fire | 2% to 2.5% of salary for each year | 71.25% of salary |
| All other | 2% to 2.25% of salary for each year | 60% to 67% of salary |

- Retirees in the Defined Contribution Plan receive no adjustments post retirement.

Consideration of COLA for Pension Retires

Other Information, cont.

- **Social Security COLA, last 10 years.**

| Fiscal year | Soc Sec COLA |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2022 | 5.90% |
| 2021 | 1.30% |
| 2020 | 1.60% |
| 2019 | 2.80% |
| 2018 | 2.00% |
| 2017 | 0.30% |
| 2016 | - |
| 2015 | 1.70% |
| 2014 | 1.50% |
| 2013 | 1.70% |
| | 18.80% |