

For Immediate Release

October 31, 2023

Press Release

Wilton Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Police Department Headquarters

The Town of Wilton held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Police Department Headquarters on Thursday, October 26th. First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and Police Chief Tom Conlan shared remarks with the group.

Those in attendance included several members of the Police Department, co-chairs of the Police-Town Hall Building Committee, current and past chair of the Police Commission, former Police Chief John Lynch, representatives from Tecton Architects, representatives from A. Secondino & Son, members of the Board of Selectmen, and Town employees.

For more information on the Police Department Headquarters project, please visit the [Town of Wilton website](#).

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Remarks by First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice at PDHQ Headquarters Groundbreaking on October 26, 2023

Thank you all for being here on this glorious day for the ground breaking of this much overdue and much need new police headquarters.

It was a long almost 30-year journey to this day, but fortunately we are here because of a series of smart decisions made over the last 8 plus years.

The first being the hiring of Chris Burney. He quickly proved his chops when he began work on the Miller Driscoll renovation and expansion. So much so that in that same year he began working on the town campus and the new headquarters.

The next smart decision was the appointment of a study committee, that became a building committee with Dave Waters and Patti Temple as the co-chairs. Both were also proven. The headquarters project was to follow the Miller Driscoll project, which passed with an extremely small number of votes and continued to be a source of complaint. We needed chairs and committee members the public could trust to vet the need and options before developing a recommended solution.

The next smart decision was the promotion of John Lynch to Chief. He, along with then captains Tom Conlan and Rob Cipolla, provided fact-based rationales related to headquarter needs and were an invaluable resource.

The next smart decision was the selection of Tecton Architects for the project. They diligently kept working to meet the stated needs while addressing the financial constraints they were hearing from the board of selectmen.

The next series of smart decisions were made by the Police Commission in approving the statement of requirements, the Board of Selectmen in approving the recommendations and moving the project to the Annual Town Meeting, the Board of Finance supporting the recommendation and the voters overwhelming approving the bonding questions.

To the A. Secondino & Son, Inc team, welcome. We look forward to the ribbon cutting and I am confident the next first selectwoman will be able to stand here and add one more smart decision: contracting with A. Secondino & Son as the general contractor for the project.

Remarks by Police Chief Tom Conlan at PDHQ Headquarters Groundbreaking on October 26, 2023

First off, I would like to acknowledge what a momentous occasion this is for the Town of Wilton, and for its police department. It has been 20 years since this project was conceived, and we are tremendously grateful to be here today.

The men and women of this department are very lucky to have such great support from this community and we are extremely proud to serve the Town of Wilton.

There were a lot of people who played a big role in this, but without the support of the Wilton residents, we wouldn't be where we are today.

We would first like to thank First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice. I think it was her vision and definitely her determination that pushed this project over the finish line. They say timing is everything, and everything was in the right place at the right time to finally make this building a reality.

Second and just as important, I would like to thank Retired Chief John Lynch who put countless hours into this project. I would like to remind everyone that all the work that he did was for a building that he knew he would most likely never get a chance to work in.

I would also want to thank the current and former police commissioners who were involved in this project. They also put in many hours and were all staunch supporters of this department and the need for this new police headquarters.

Thank you to Chris Burney and Patricia Brandt as well as to Jeff, Rebecca and Jon from Tecton Architects for all their work on this as well.

Lastly, I would also like to thank the members of the Wilton Police Building Committee who over the past several years helped move this project forward. Particularly the co-chairs of the committee Patti Temple and David Waters. They also put in countless volunteer hours assisting with building tours, attending building committee and Board of Selectman meetings, as well as helping craft the message on the need for this building.

Let's hope we continue to have great weather like this during the construction phase of this project.

Photo



Front row from left to right:

John Lynch, retired Police Chief

Lynne Vanderslice, First Selectwoman

Patti Temple, Police-Town Hall Building Committee

Tom Conlan, Police Chief

David Waters, Police-Town Hall Building Committee

Rob Cipolla, Deputy Chief

Alfred Secondino, President, A. Secondino & Son, Inc.

Tony Gogliettino, Senior Project Superintendent, A. Secondino & Son, Inc.

Jeff McElravy, Tecton Architects

Rebecca Hopkins, Tecton Architects

Chris Burney, Project Manager

Photo Credit: Patricia Brandt