

To: Board of Selectmen Members

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: May 16th Amended BOS Meeting Agenda

Date: May 15, 2023

All,

The following information is being provided in advance of the May 16th meeting:

E-1 Discussion of Proposed \$35,000 Reduction in the FY2024 WLA Budget Request. Last, week you should have all received an emailed letter from Wilton Library Association. If not, it is available here:

https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/agendas/wla_letter_to_the_board_of_selectmen_2023-05-11.pdf

E-3 Proposal to Charge Permit Fees for the Use of the Transfer Station. You likely recall the budget for the Transfer Station and the associated subsidy in the adopted BOS operating budget included a permit fee for use of the Transfer Station. Matt will present the proposal.

E-4 Town Meeting Follow Up and Comments. With the narrow defeat of the turf field referendum, I suggest we need to consider the question of *Do we want to continue to pursue a third turf field in Wilton?*. To help assist, I provided you all with a proposed survey for voters to be discussed at the meeting. I have also requested the Registrars provide demographic data about those who voted in the Annual Town Meeting and I have met with WARF leadership.

E-5 Proposed Early Voting Legislation-Possible Wilton Ordinance to Allow for the Extension of the Time Period Between the Annual Town Meeting and Adjourned Vote. The early voting bill passed by the CT House does not provide reforms for municipal referendum voting. Residents have long complained the short window between the Annual Town Meeting and the adjourned vote does not facilitate absentee voting. If a voter is away, under the state statute, the voter requires the assistance of a family member and is effectively forced to pay for overnight shipping both ways.

With the potential of early voting for all elections other than referendums and the possibility of no excuse absentee voting (bill to amend the state constitution also passed the House), resident frustration with the current three-day time period for absentee voting will continue to grow.

There is action that can be taken. CGS 7-199b allows the BOS, while acting as the Town legislative body, to modify the date in the charter for the continued machine vote by adopting an ordinance. Therefore, we could by ordinance set the adjourned vote for a later date, such as the second

Saturday following the Annual Town Meeting which would provide an additional 10 days of absentee voting.

Here is the language of CGS 7-199b: ***Sec. 7-191b. Amendments to charters to modify budget adoption dates.*** *Notwithstanding the provisions of this title and chapters 164, 170 and 204 and any special act, municipal charter or home rule ordinance, a municipality, upon a two-thirds vote of its legislative body, may amend its charter for the sole purpose of modifying its budget adoption dates. Such budget adoption dates may include, but need not be limited to, applicable dates relating to an executive presentation of a proposed budget, public hearings, fiscal authority action, publications, referenda or final budget adoption. Any vote by the legislative body of a municipality pursuant to this section shall include a reference to this section. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-401.*

See you tomorrow.

Lynne