

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectman

David K. Clune
Second Selectman

Michael P. Kaelin
Selectman

Lori A. Bufano
Selectman

Deborah McFadden
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:30 PM
Meeting Room B, Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, David Clune (arrived at 7:35PM), Lori Bufano, Deborah McFadden

ABSENT: Michael Kaelin (Excused)

GUESTS: Anne Kelly-Lenz

OTHERS: Members of the Press and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an item D-8 to discuss the BOF Survey Questions. Motion made by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 3-0.

B. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Bufano, to approve the March 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended to show Mr. Clune as Absent (With Notice). Motioned seconded by Ms. Vanderslice carried 2-2 with Mr. Clune and Ms. McFadden abstaining.

Motion made by Ms. McFadden to approve the remaining consent agenda of March 5, 2018 Minutes, Refunds and Gifts. Motion seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried 4-0.

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – March 5, 2018
- Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance Budget Review – March 13, 2018

Refunds

- As per Tax Collector's Memo dated March 14, 2018

Gifts

- Right at Home Greater Fairfield County – Senior Center - \$450.00

C. Public Comment

None

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Storm Update

Ms. Vanderslice gave an update on the storm. She acknowledged that all departments did an outstanding job in response to the storm.

Ms. Vanderslice noted that residents have inquired as to whether the Town will be picking up debris or having a place to bring debris. She read the attached notice and notice will be available on the Town website. After discussion, it was recommended that the Town do not provide disposal service.

2. POCD Update

Ms. Vanderslice gave an update on POCD. She noted that attendance has been disappointing and with each meeting attendance has declined. She stated that she has spoken with P&Z chair Scott Lawrence and with P&Z Director Bob Nerney and discussions are underway to develop ways to increase participation.

3. Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth Update

Ms. Vanderslice gave an update on the presentation on Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth. She noted that she attended a presentation last week given by the Co-chairs of the Commission. She thought the slide deck on the State's fiscal position was worthy of sharing at tonight's meeting, as it is important for residents to understand the state's fiscal situation beyond just that it is bad. She reviewed the slides with the board.

4. Budgeted Mil Rate and Senior Tax Relief

Anne Kelly-Lenz reviewed the current mil rate forecast and the status on expected senior tax relief requirements. After review, a motion was made by Ms. McFadden to recommend that the Tax Relief Elderly and Disabled be set at \$1,150,000. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried unanimously 4-0.

5. Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadows 2018 Summer Concert Series

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadows 2018 Summer Concert Series. She noted that Parks and Recreation will once again be organizing four concerts this summer - 2 at Schenck's Island and two at Merwin Meadows. All are new bands. The concerts will be held on the Sundays starting on July 15th through August 5th. She stated that once again welcoming sponsors to assist with the cost. Sponsorship forms will be available on the town website beginning this week. For questions about sponsorship, contact person is Sarah Gioffre.

6. Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadows Study Committee Update

Ms. Vanderslice gave an update on the Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadows Study Committee. She noted that an RFQ has been issued for a designer to seek public input and develop proposals. The expectation is that input sessions will be held in the fall.

7. Appointments

- Social Services

Ms. Vanderslice noted that there are two candidates to consider for the one opening on the Social Services Commission. She asked if the board would

like to discuss the candidates in an executive session. Ms. Vanderslice asked for motion to add an Executive Session as Item G to discuss the Social Services candidates to be followed by a public vote. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and unanimously carried 4-0.

- Board of Assessment Appeals – Warren Serenbetz
Ms. Vanderslice noted that Warren Serenbetz has been nominated to fill the term of Don Drummond which expires on 11/30/2019. Mr. Serenbetz has agreed to step down from the elected position of Constable in order to hold the position. Motion to appoint Warren Serenbetz to the Board of Assessment Appeals made by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried unanimously 4-0.
- Building Inspector Board of Appeals – Peg Koellmer
Ms. Vanderslice noted that Peg Koellmer was nominated by the DTC for a position on the Building Inspector Board of Appeals. Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the qualifications for membership on the board. She noted that we currently have one member from the general public on the board and that under the State Building Code; the remaining appointees to this board must have 5 years of design or construction experience. Because we have had great difficulty filling this board, she had hoped there was an avenue to waive qualifications, but there is not. Therefore Ms. Koellmer is not eligible for appointment, but we thank her for volunteering.

8. Discussion of BoF Survey Questions

Ms. McFadden noted that she attended the inaugural meeting of the Board of Finance Survey SubCommittee. She reviewed discussions from that meeting. She noted that the survey questions will be geared toward taxpayers and what are their financial priorities and is asking the board for their input and suggestions to bring back to the group.

E. Selectmen's Reports

1. First selectman

Ms. Vanderslice noted that she presented the BoS budget to the BoF last week and the meeting lasted for more than two hours. She stated that it was a good discussion and the board seemed happy with where we ended on the budget.

Ms. Vanderslice also attended, on Saturday evening, the Library fundraiser. She stated that it was a very nice evening and appeared to be a profitable one for the Library.

She noted that a number of people spoke with her about Wilton 412 and how upset they were at the divisiveness of some of the exchanges which occur on that site. Her advice was and is quite simple: leave the group. She noted that she left. She further stated that the arguments that occur on that site tend to occur between a small group of people, some who are not even Wilton residents. She notes that what occurs on this site is not reflective of the Wilton that she knows and that most of Wilton is tolerant and is concerned about and generous towards their neighbors. If you find the argument demoralizing, the best thing you can do is leave the group. Don't give their arguing an audience. Send the message that you have had enough.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Clune

Mr. Clune concurred with Ms. Vanderslice's comments regarding Wilton 412. He noted that he attended the Wilton Children's Theater event and that it went very well.

Ms. Bufano

Ms. Bufano noted that she also attended the Library fundraiser and it was a great event. She also thanked Andy Pforzheimer and David Genovese for attending the Wilton Economic Development Commission meeting that was held this past Wednesday. She noted that they gave great insight into the Town and Town development.

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted that she left 412 a few years ago. She reiterated comments made by Ms. Vanderslice for the work of the town departments during the storm. She acknowledged the nature of cooperation between the town departments and that we are fortunate to have that cooperation. She noted that the Registrars will be transitioning with the retirement of Carole Young-Kleinfeld to a new Registrar and asks support as the transition will be taking place during an active season with the Town Meeting.

Ms. McFadden reminded all - Public Hearings on the BoE and BoF Budget will be taking place on March 26 & 27, 2018 at Middlebrook School. Encourage all to attend both hearings.

F. Public Comment
None

G. Executive Session

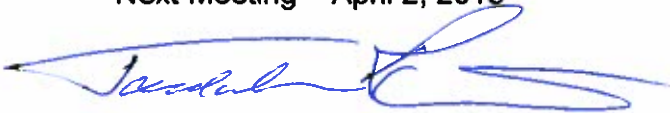
- Discussion on Social Services candidates
Motion made by Ms. McFadden to enter into Executive Session at 8:26PM to discuss Social Services candidates. Motion seconded by Mr. Clune and carried unanimously 4-0.

Out of Executive Session at 8:35PM. No appointment made.

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Ms. McFadden to adjourn meeting at 8:36PM. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bufano and unanimously carried 4-0.

Next Meeting – April 2, 2018



Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

Board of Selectmen Statement on Private Property Debris Clean Up and Disposal

March 19, 2018

At this week's Board of Selectmen meeting a discussion was held about storm clean up and whether the town had the resources to assist with clean up and or disposal on private property. The following was considered:

Sandy and other storms, which have caused heavy damage, occurred in the fall, which is the less busy time of the year for DPW and Parks and Grounds. Unfortunately the recent storm occurred as we are heading into spring, which is the busiest time of year for DPW and Parks and Grounds.

DPW, of course, has continued responsibility for snow removal should we receive additional snow. They must fill potholes that occurred or worsen over the winter. They also will soon begin catch basin and prep work in advance of the upcoming spring road paving. In addition to this regular work, they must find time to continue to clean up and dispose of debris on the town roads and right of way.

Parks and Grounds must prepare and ready the playing fields as sports tryouts are happening now or in the upcoming weeks. In addition, they must clean up and dispose of debris from school property, town properties and town trails.

Both departments expect clean up and disposal work to continue for a few months. As such, there are no available town resources to assist with private property clean up or disposal. If the Town were to provide assistance, we would need to hire an outside contractor(s) to supervise and perform the work and we would need to pass along the cost of such to the residents who participated. This would be the same contractor(s) currently available for residents to hire on their own.

The cost of addressing the storm, while it was occurring, and the subsequent clean up and disposal of debris will be very expensive for the town. We are occurring overtime and disposal fees and have had to hire outside contractors to perform certain tree work. For example during the week of the storm, the average DPW worker incurred 41.6 hours of overtime.

The Town's transfer station does not accept debris, nor does the Town typically provide assistance after a storm. Though the Town did provide assistance on two previous occasions:

- After a fall storm, the Town elected to pick up storm debris. Residents were instructed to leave storm debris only at the edge of their property for pick up. Numerous problems occurred including residents leaving non-storm related debris and contents other than debris. The effort

was much more time consuming and expensive than the Town had expected. The recommendation was made not to do such again.

- After Sandy, the Town elected to provide a manned area for residents to drop off debris to be chipped and or disposed of by the Town. This decision was made with knowledge that FEMA would underwrite 75% of the associated costs.

The following was noted regarding area towns:

- Weston, like Wilton, does not accept debris at the transfer station. They have not announced any changes in practice.
- New Canaan is only picking up debris, which originated from the right of way, and will not pick up any non right of way debris placed in the right of way.
- Westport, which accepts debris at the transfer station and picks up leaves, is allowing free debris disposal at the transfer station. They are only picking up debris, which has fallen in the right of way.
- Ridgefield's transfer station accepts debris. They have not announced any changes in practice.
- Trumbull, which allows residents a onetime per year bulk pick up, is allowing residents to use that one pick up for storm debris.

After consideration, the Board of Selectmen agreed the town would not perform private property debris clean up or disposal. We hope you find this information helpful in understanding our decision-making.