

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
January 18, 2022

Members Present: Keith Swett, David Leavitt, Tom Saviello, Phil Hilton, Rhonda Irish(Town Manager) Absent: Tiffany Maiuri

Also Present: Heinz Gossman, Superintendent of Water-Sewer, Mt Blue TV,
Brent West, High Peaks Alliance

Item #1- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting December 21, 2021

The Minutes will be presented at the next meeting. (February 1, 2022)

Item #2- Public Comment

None

Item #3- Consideration of Letter of Support for Rail Trail Bridge Project-High Peaks Alliance

They are ready to submit for a Federal Grant. The Rail Trail Bridge Project is looking for letter of support and is hoping we could provide one. A cable bridge is proposed due to this being less expensive. It would be approximately 10 feet wide and the cost would be approximately 1.5 Million. This would generate jobs and increased visitor spending. With Federal grant money the anticipated start date would be 2023. ATV's are not allowed on the trail. Biking, snowmobiling, pedestrians are allowed. (Attached is an article pertaining to this project)

Tom/Phil m/m/s to approve a Letter of Support for the Rail Trail Bridge Project.

Vote: Unan.

Item #4- Water and Wastewater Department Reports-Heinz Gossman

Water Dept Report Update-In regards to the Transmission Line Project, Inland Fishery & Wildlife is holding the project up some due to a Salmon study. Heinz is looking to start taking bids early summer. There were a couple of water line breaks but they were quick day jobs and they also did some proactive dig jobs.

Sewer Dept Report Update-The authorized crane purchase that was approved last year-the department is really happy with this purchase. It has come in quite handy. Last year the Board requested Covid testing study done within Water-

Sewer department and it was discussed at how costly this would be to do. Heinz reached out and asked one of the Federal Inspectors on this study and they will include us as part of their study. In regards to Covid protocols within the departments, they are using proactive measures and following the necessary protocols.

Tom asked about the PFAS testing? Heinz explained this was being done two times year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall

A. Consideration of Water and Wastewater 2022 Budgets

Sewer Budget- The Revenue is down from last year. David Leavitt had a concern on \$2,000.00 being overspent based on last year's audit. Heinz explained that the Tannery Issue they had was a contributing factor in this. Heinz also explained there were no big projects planned for this year. DEP permits were running about a year and a half behind so they will run off their "old" permit. Though the new permit has been applied for.

Tom-Is this documented in the inspector file? If not, it would be a good idea.

Heinz brought to the Boards attention that with our requested budget of \$819,000, \$460,000 is going toward debt repayment. That only leaves \$359,000 to work with. Heinz discussed the request of raising the rates. It has been 5 years since the last increase. He is requesting a 5% increase and will need a public hearing. He prefers little increments versus large. With this year's budget request, we had to decrease the capital funding line and also the Test & Permit line to make our budget work. An update on the dam- The top splashboard was worked on. We will need a contractor for further work on this. The water level will have to be dropped and residents will need to be notified.

Tom- Can ARPA funds be used for the purpose of Environmental Infrastructure? This will be looked into.

Tom/Phil m/m/s to accept the \$819,000 Budget for the Sewer Department.

Vote: Unan. (Budget attached)

Water Budget- Requesting a budget of \$593,093. No major projects. The filters, roof and painting were done at the Water Plant this past year. Heinz would like to continue to work on replacing filters and valves.

Tom/Keith m/m/s to accept the \$593,093 Budget for the Water Department.

Vote: Unan. (Budget attached)

B. Consideration of Rate Increases-Water and Wastewater

Heinz is requesting a 2% increase for the Water Department and a 5% increase

for the Sewer Department. For the Water Department we would need to go through PUC.

Keith-Do we need public hearing?

Heinz- PUC is our first step with the Water Department, public hearing would be second. The Sewer Department does not go through PUC and would need a public hearing. He would like to move forward on both.

Tom/Phil m/m/s To get the process started with the 2% Water rate increase
Vote: Unan.

Tom/Phil m/m/s To go to Public Hearing for the 5% Sewer Rate increase. (The intention is to get the Public Hearing lined up with the Water)
Vote: Unan.

Item #5- Lakeview Cemetery Memorial-Consideration of Next Steps

Tom met with TJD & A Landscape Architects & Planners for the design of the Memorials. Attached are the designs. It is with the intent of recognizing Emergency Personnel and Veterans. Tom liked the maintenance free design but what would the citizens prefer? It was suggested to post on our Town Website. The money for this project would come out of the cemetery fund. Rhonda stated that there is approximately \$800,000 +/- in the fund. Tom suggested to put the idea in the paper, on facebook, on our website as a survey to get the public view. It could be placed until March.

(No m/m/s or vote)

Item#6- Marijuana Renewals-Consideration of Public Hearing Date

Rhonda will have Applications at next meeting. A Public Hearing is not needed due to no requirements for one in the Marijuana Ordinance.

Tom- Have the Marijuana Businesses been or are they going to be inspected? His concern is if there are violations versus licensing. The comparison would be Liquor stores.

Item #7- Manager's Report

A. Town Meeting, Selectboard Meetings, Budget Schedule

Rhonda will send out the schedule of meetings, which are subject to change. The Town Meeting is set for Monday June 20, 2022. The Town Election is

Tuesday June 14, 2022. Tom Saviello and Tiffany Maiuri seats will be up for nomination. (Attached are the schedules)

B. Matrix Broadband Memorandum of Understanding

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dave- The Committee should get together again.

Item #8-Other Business

Tom- The Recycling Committee should get together again. Put out on Facebook.

Phil-Is there a date to reassess the Share Shack? It was discussed the suggestion of the committee meeting on this to reassess.

Phil-What is the status on the erosion behind the Library and the Dam?

Rhonda-Part of this is privately owned and is not sure if anyone has been there lately but will check on this.

Keith- What is the update on the parking lot versus snow removal concern?

Rhonda-It has been better. Contact with the Owners of the apartment buildings have taken place for snow removal.

David-What is the status on the septic issue on Gilbert St South?

Rhonda- Lawsuits between the owners are taking place. It is a Civil issue. Septic is being monitored by the septic person. It was suggested that Heinz or Charlie Lavin (CEO) do a drive by once a month and document any changes in relation to the Sewer.

Keith/Tom m/m/s to Adjourn Vote: Unan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm