

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
February 7, 2023

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT www.mtbluetv.org)

Members Present: Keith Swett, David Leavitt, Tiffany Maiuri, Phil Hilton, Mike Wells, Perry Ellsworth, Town Manager

Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of January 17, 2023

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Accept and Approve the Minutes of the Select Board for January 17, 2023

Vote: 5-0

Item #2- Public Comment on a non-agenda item

John Black, Resident and Owner of Earthkeepers spoke on the concern on the Fee Schedule for Retail and Cultivation of Marijuana. He would like and is requesting a revisit on this topic.

David-He would like to see inspections that were to take place. We are not at a point to discuss this yet.

John Black-It has been two years, going on three. He has paid his fees. Why are inspections being done and why a \$2,000.00 fee?

David-Fees are charged according to what other towns are charging.

Perry-He is researching other towns as to what fees are being charged and how they are being determined and set.

Tiffany-When the fees were set, we did not know what the cost would be to run. The administrative fee (Code Enforcement Officer, Fire, Police) to go on site would need to be determined. The Businesses should not be charged what is necessary.

Mike-We need to go to the Statute for Maine. What does the ordinance entail?

Tiffany-Is there a checklist so we can come up with a reasonable fee?

Mike-How is this determined in regards to what establishments are inspected? What does the ordinance state?

John Black-\$1,333.00 fee for retail is charged. He does not pay a fee in Winthrop or Dixfield.

(Attached is M.R.S.A. §3702 Title 30-A Part 2-Subpart 6 that explains Fees for licenses or permits.)

John Black- Does not understand why the inspections are done.

Item #3- Matrix Update

Chris Lynch-Matrix-Presented an update on the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) Grant, The grant application has been provisionally approved for 3.7 Million dollars. The perimeter of location coverage will increase from 500 to 1500. Everyone in Wilton will soon have fiber internet. In regards to pricing, there will be an affordable tier for \$30.00. The Plan that was \$95.00 is now \$60.00. There will be an amendment needed for the change in coverage area. The buyout will be larger due to the construction be larger. The MCA will give a final approval on the application on February 13 with the final decision from the Board February 24. The Pole Survey has been completed, though there will be an additional pole survey needed for the remaining poles due to the increased coverage area. CMP will be requesting/requiring a Surety Bond and Insurance Policy. Once the Grant is received, amendments will be done.

Perry-The Town authorized \$315,000.00 for this project. It is possible this could be taken out of this funding. Grant money would not cover this.

(See Attachment on Grant Update)

Item #4- MBTV

Andre Cormier, Executive Director of Mt. Blue TV gave an annual report along with Budget information. (See Attached)

Perry- Select Board Meeting from 2016 and forward will be archived and hardcopy requested.

Andre Cormier-He confirmed they could archive.

Keith requested quarterly reports to be submitted to the Select Board so that they will be kept informed throughout the year.

Item #5- ARPA Funds Safety Building

(Attached are Invoices on proposed ARPA Public Safety Building ideas)

Chief Dunham-Not being fully aware until after the fact, authorized from the ARPA funding was a sign. \$30,000.00 was allotted for this. They (Fire and Police) decided against it. They felt there were other things of importance such as Security. There are a lot of keys out there. There is also an idea of a gym in which Chief Dunham feels is a great idea. Prices were gotten for equipment.

Chief Kyes-In regards to the \$30,000 for a sign, he gave other ideas on other important items such as security cameras. As mentioned, the idea of a gym he feels is a good mental health idea. Chief Kyes understood that this was approved.

David-Grants have always been approved through the Select Board. The sign was approved by the Board.

Mike- We have got to follow the process.

Chief Dunham-We thought that the \$30,000.00 was approved and was with good intention.

Tiffany-She agrees. Nothing was done wrong just a misunderstanding of the process.

Mike-Could we possibly retroactively approve this?

Perry-This did not go to Town Meeting. It would need to be reallocated at the town meeting in June. We currently have approximately \$259,000.00.

Items on the original list will be on hold until approved properly. This should be revisited at the town meeting.

ARPA is a federal grant with their own set of rules.

Tiffany-Can we reallocate and make a motion to close this chapter?

David-We do not have the authority according to Perry.

Perry-He will come up with an article for this topic.

Item #6- Road's Update

Mike Wells-Select Board Member and Road Committee Member- Mike gave an update on the roads. Public Works is on a 10-year plan, covering 50 miles of roads, 5 miles per year. We are behind.

John Masse, Highway Foreman explained a new method of repaving roads. One being chip seal. Highway Department is experimenting with this.

Road ordinances should be reviewed. It is approximately \$85,000.00 per mile for repair. The budget should be increased for the highway department to catch up. Roads need to be discussed which are to be maintained or discontinued along with easements.

Perry-Our ordinance needs to change.

Mike-A traffic study may be necessary for some of these roads.

Keith-There is a website that the State will provide on this information.

Item #7- Discharge of Mortgage

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Approve and Sign the Discharge of Mortgage for Mark Brooks and Tracy Rowell Oppose 5-0

Motion by Tiffany- to Move the Vote

Motion by Keith-Second by Phil- To Table the Discharge of Mortgage for Mark Brooks and Tracy Rowell. Vote: 5-0

Item #8- Finance Committee Appointments: Barry Hathaway Randall Hall

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Accept the Finance Committee Appointments of Barry Hathaway and Randall Hall. Vote: 5-0

Item #9-Standard Offer Electricity

Perry is asking for authority to enter into a contract for Standard Offer Electricity.

Motion by Mike/Second by Phil- To Grant the Town Manager authority to enter into a utility agreement that will benefit the Town.

Vote: 5-0

Item #10- Website

Perry-The website is a mess. Perry is suggesting Expenet Technologies. He is also suggesting using ARPA funding for this expense.

Tiffany-How to update the website could be the issue. She believes it is training within the employees/staff. Tiffany would be willing to work with the staff.

Perry-Brandy Jellison is our website associate. Perry will send along Brandy's information to Tiffany so that they may communicate on the website issue. More information on the website is to be determined by next meeting.

Phil will assist as well if needed.

Item#11-Manager's Report

(See Attached Manager's Report)

Keith and David volunteered for the Boat Landing meeting.

Tiffany requested on foreclosure properties, if foreclosure takes place, she would like to know if the property is occupied or vacant or is it just land.

Perry will have an update at the next Select Board meeting.

IN reference to the Audit for 2022 Perry stated approximately \$7-10,000.00 have been spent. Maybe money from the ARPA funding could be used to offset costs.

Nomination papers will be available. Keith and David's seats are up for re nomination.

Tiffany-For the upcoming budget she would ask to review the questionnaire from last year for non-profits.

Perry has received approximately 10-15 requests at this time.

Item#12-Other

Phil-He has had a couple of residents ask him if they were to still use clear bags for their trash.

John Masse-Highway Foreman-He said that yes we do but it isn't enforced. We do sell clear bags. It is for recycling purposes.

Item#13-Adjournment

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 7:35 P.M.

