

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
March 7, 2023

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://www.mtbluetv.org))

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

**Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of February 7, 2023**

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Accept the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of February 7, 2023.                      Vote: 4-0    1-Absent

**Item #2-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of February 21, 2023**

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Accept the Minutes of the Select Board February 21, 2023.                      Vote: 2-2    (2 Abstain)    (1-Absent)

This item will be brought to the next meeting (March 21, 2023)

**Item #3- Public Comment on a non-agenda item**

Nick Santora, Rt 2 Wilton Resident-Mr. Santora had a concern with the most recent snowstorm with an 18-wheeler truck traveling 51 miles per hour. Mr. Santora used a speed gun. He has attempted to contact Governor Mills and also Senator Susan Collins with no luck. Mr. Santora is wondering why the Wilton Police Department can not sit at the Swett Rd to monitor the traffic? He also spoke on the helicopter option. A previous Select Board Member(T.Saviello) thought it would be a good idea along with Terry Brann. A CDL ticket is \$200.00 +/- . Mr. Santora feels that would be money that could be used to put an officer on the street. He is really hoping that something will be done.

Tiffany-She appreciates Mr. Santora coming forward. The Police Department does prioritize.

Perry-If we could have the county police, we would be happy. Revenues from tickets go to the State not the Town.

**Item #4- Liquor License-Saltmarsh Farms Inc.**

Perry stated that the Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Chief and Police Chief went to check/inspect property. Taxes are paid.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To Accept the Liquor License for Saltmarsh Farms, Inc. Vote: 4-0 1-Absent

**Item #5- Presentation by Charter Communications (Spectrum)**

(See Attached Presentation Information)

There are 1897 served by Bee Line cable. 85 served by the Charter and 34 unserved locations.

Charter Communications (Spectrum) provides services to 32 million customers across 41 states.

Goal is to be gig symmetrical by 2025.

Charter Communications (Spectrum) invested over \$40 Billion in infrastructure and technology.

Charter Communications (Spectrum) participates in the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This program provides eligible households a credit of \$30 per month toward any tier of broadband service.

Tiffany-She is interested in Broadband. She looks at the upload speed.

Charter Representative-The commitment by 2025 is 300x300 then gig symmetrical. 5 gig to 1 gig.

Keith-How much more expensive if it goes beyond the 300x300?

Charter Representative-He is not sure of the exact amount but can check into this.

Perry-Bee Line has not taken very good care of Wilton. More discussion will be needed.

**Item #6- Resolution to allow sale of Beeline to Charter**

Perry-This is the necessary piece that is needed to take place for the transfer of Bee Line to Spectrum.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To Approve the Resolution authorizing the transfer of franchise of Bee Line, Inc to Spectrum Northeast, LLC

Vote: 4-0 Absent -1

### **Item #7- Town Meeting Date**

Annual Election and School Budget Referendum will be held June 13, 2023

Annual Town Meeting will be held June 20, 2023

There are 2 Select Board Seats Available.

There is 1 School Board Seat Available.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To Accept the dates for the Annual Election ,  
School Budget Referendum and the Annual Town Meeting.

Vote: 4-0 1 Absent

### **Item #8- Sewer Budget Revenue Options**

(See Attached Information Sheet)

Heinz Gossman, Superintendent-There is a shortage in the Sewer Budget. Our options are:

1. A 30% increase at \$51.64 Quarter
2. 15% increase this year, 15% next year and to use \$100,000 from the Sewer Department checkbook.

This is an unfunded mandate with the PFA's issue.

The State of Maine does not have room for the sludge.

3. No clue on other options available.

Heinz-Taking money from out checkbook will be tight. There is a certain amount of money that needs to be kept in there for permitting purposes.

Keith-Do we need permission with the sewer rate changes like we do with water?

Heinz-No, though we our best to try and follow the same way as what the water department does. We do not have to follow the PUC rules with Sewer.

Perry proposed that the Select Board could vote for 15% for 1 year and revisit this again next year. There were no rate increases for either department for years.

We are in crisis mode.

Option 1 would be 15% now, 15% next year

Option 2 would be 15% for 1 year.

Tiffany- She feels taking 15% and \$100,000 from the Sewer Department checkbook makes sense. Tiffany has spoken with some of the Legislature Representatives and they are aware of this issue. We have to balance this budget.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil- To do a 15% Rate Increase for 1 year and use \$100,000 from the Sewer Department checkbook.

Vote: 4-0 1-Absent

Heinz-Be prepared in December of 2023 that he will be coming with a possible shortfall.

### **Item #9-Resiliency Grant Options**

(See Attached)

In reference to the Community Resilience Partnership, Perry suggested heat pumps for the Town Office Building.

David-Questioned erosion by the Town parking lot.

There is an option to conserve, revegetate and reconnect riparian areas.

Perry will move forward and check into these items.

### **Item #10-Town Webpage Update**

Perry has seen some improvement.

Tiffany-The website has been put back to its original structural design.

Tiffany could work with one of the in-office employees. That person could learn how to do updates. Tiffany can set up time to meet and discuss and help to implement.

### **Item #11-Set dates for Executive Session for Union Contract Proposals/Needed Workshops/Budget Meetings**

(See Attached)

The Attached Meeting dates will be posted on our Bulletin Board along with the web page.

Information on union negotiations will be sent to Select Board members.

The Meetings consist of Budget and Union Negotiations.

The Executive Session tonight will be rescheduled to March 14, 2023. There will be 2 Executive Sessions. One for Union Related matters and 1 for Personnel.

### **Item #12-Cannabis License Renewal Rates**

(See Attached Tier Information Sheet)

Perry suggested to only deal with Tier 1. That is what we have now. At the last meeting, we discussed what the Town's costs are along with inspections. Not sure if the \$667 is correct for growth license.

The State collects on a tier basis.

Tier 1 consists of 30 plants growing or a canopy of 500 feet.

If we lower the rate to something that is reasonable, Perry is ok with this.

Tier 4 is for distribution facilities. More growth is coming. Our image long term is a concern. Perry is asking to center the decision on Tier 1.

David-We need to look at this as Business. It is more than Code Enforcement, Police or Fire doing inspections and doing reports. It is the actual cost, the overhead to operate a business. It should be a business cost.

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To propose to set the Tier 1 rate at \$240.00.

Tiffany-Municipalities can be reimbursed some of the costs.

Perry is researching this. We can go back three years for reimbursement.

Tiffany-Tier 1 is more in line.

Vote: 2-2 (2 opposed-Keith/David) 1 absent Motion fails

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To propose to set the Tier 1 rate at \$250.00.

Keith-What are Perry's thoughts.

Perry-We are giving up a Revenue source. Perry is waiting to hear from the Office of Cannabis Retail in regards to how many State Inspectors there are.

Vote: 4-0 1 Absent

### **Item #13-Priorities**

(See Attached List)

Priorities consist of: Budget/Union Negotiations/High Speed Internet/ARPA Funds/Town Report/Road Closure Issues/Water Transmission Line Project/Marina Issue/Foreclosures

Perry-The MCA Grant will be reviewed again later this month. It did not pass for Fayette or Skowhegan. It would be a good idea to have Charles Woodworth and Chris Lynch get together with us in a meeting and discuss in a workshop format on the financial numbers.

ARPA-Perry suggested to get ideas from employees and present to the Select Board. It was also discussed to check the survey that was done awhile back in regards to APRA and what the townspeople would like.

Dave-Can we get a copy of this survey from Renee?

Roads-A winter closure meeting should be held in early May. This would be a Public Hearing with a vote by the Select Board.

Water Line Project-There are allocated funds from the undesignated fund to cover the costs associated with the preliminary engineering and design needs.

Marina- We need to have a high-level executive session with the attorney to discuss options or a plan. Let's look at possible solutions instead of a court case.

Foreclosure deadline is March 17, 2023. There are 13 out of 23 that are not paid as of today. 3 are land parcels.

**Item #14-Other**

Manager's Report- (See Attached)

In regards to the Planning Board Meetings, Cindy is going to start filming these and will be posted on our website.

Tiffany wanted to remind everyone that the Franklin County Caucus is March 20, 2023 at 5:00P.M. at the Franklin County Courthouse.

**Item #15- Executive Session 1 MSRA §405 6A Personnel Issues**

This will be rescheduled to the special Executive Sessions set for Tuesday March 14, 2023

**Item#16-Adjournment**

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Adjourn

Vote: 4-0      7:30 P.M.

Woodland Avenue Resident spoke on concern of repaving Woodland. He requested to not repave if the road is not going to be rebuilt.

