

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
March 15, 2022

Members Present: Keith Swett, David Leavitt, Phil Hilton, Tiffany Maiuri, Rhonda Irish

Also Present: Chief Heidi Wilcox, Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering, Dalton Plante, Foreman Water-Sewer Dept., Mt. Blue TV

Members Absent: Tom Saviello

Item #1- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of March 1, 2022

Phil/Keith m/m/s -To accept the Minutes of March 1, 2022 Vote: Unan.

Item #2- Public Comment

None

Item #3 – Police Department Report-Chief Heidi Wilcox

A. Consideration of bidding for new Police Vehicle

Police Chief Heidi Wilcox stated that things are good. She has one person that has been hired. Tom Fiske is his name and he will be sent to the Police Academy. There is another one that is in the process of hiring for reserve officers and also one slot will be filled with a part time fully certified officer. Chief Wilcox would like to set up some gym equipment and have the Wilton Police and Fire Departments work together to make this happen. She would like to use the anonymous donation of \$1,000.00 to apply to the equipment purchase. We have also been accepted for the Stone Garden Grant for \$8,000 which would cover extra patrol shift coverage in which would be reimbursed by the federal government with the approval of the Board. (See attached report along with Logistics Information))

Keith/Phil m/m/s to accept the Stone Garden Grant for \$8,000.00

Tiffany/Phil m/m/s to accept the anonymous donation of \$1,000 and apply towards the gym equipment for the Public Safety Building. Vote: Unan on both
Chief Wilcox would also like to put out a bid for a new cruiser. Rhonda stated that there is \$48,000.00 in the Capital account. (See attached Letter of Bid Request)

Tiffany- On the crime statistics, do you have any hard stats?

Chief Wilcox- We have not received any yet. We are waiting on the State.

Tiffany-Has there been an increase on the call volume?

Chief Wilcox-The calls are taking a lot of time, it is becoming more labor and resource intensive.

Tiffany/Phil m/m/s to Accept the Police Report. Vote: Unan.

Item #4-Water Department-Water Line Transmission Project-Consideration of Next Steps

Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering stated that the updates regarding the project are not wonderful. An updated draft of the Preliminary Engineering Report has been emailed to Rhonda. The costs have been updated due to a 40 percent increase in piping and also the increase of fuel. Piping is expected to increase even more. Paving and construction will increase as well. Last year the pricing for the project was estimated at 7.6 million and now we are at 9.7 million. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife submitted a letter in reference to the request from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The letter pertained to the determination that the proposed action of the transmission project is not likely to adversely affect the endangered Atlantic Salmon and its designated critical habitat. (See attached letter)

Tom: How will we proceed?

Jim: I will discuss the new options. I have prepared a report (attached) that shows the description, and cost estimates between 2021 and current and a projected for 2023. Within the estimate is a \$1 million contingency. There are 2 options. (see attached report for explanation and detail). Jim is recommending Option 2 which would entail replacing the line along the road versus replacing in place. Replacing in place is cheaper and shorter but it is harder to get to. In regards to the funding, there are 2 options for that. One option is the USDA Rural Development which we do have an application submitted. They require a Preliminary Engineering Report and an Environmental Review. The Environmental Review would include the information based on the letter received from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife relating to the potential impacts of the Atlantic Salmon and the Northern Long Eared Bat. With this option, we would need to know how much money the Town would like to apply for. The Town would not be under any obligation until any offer is formally accepted. The USDA would submit a determination based on what they think the Town could pay back along with factors like customer base,

current rates, rates in similar systems, the local median household income etc. The loan term would be for 27 years. Jim stated that the median household income in this area is \$47,500 and the average water bill for the State of Maine is \$479 year. Ours is currently \$379 year. The other option is the DWSRF(Drinking Water SRF). This is a 30 year loan. We did apply for this in September 2021 and made the back up list. We can re apply in September 2022. This loan program is based on a point system. ARPA funding is being looked into. The Town should be receiving letter from SRF with the details on the proposed loan. It would include principle forgiveness. The Water Department would need to do a 47% water rate increase to put us in line with the State level. Jim feels that the SRF is a better package for us and he is targeting for 2023.

David-What is the turn around time for the SRF?

Jim-We should be receiving a letter in January 2023 if the information, application is submitted in September 2022. This will be a 2-3 year project.

David-Will they require us to bid out the process?

Jim-No, it is included with our process.

(There was no m/m/s)

Item#5- Solar Proposals-Consideration of working with the Towns of Jay and Livermore Falls regarding offsite solar proposals/solar consultant

Other solar companies have contacted us. Are we interested in net energy billing? If so, combine with an RFP. An option would be to hire a consultant to put out the RFP? Another option is Maine Municipal Bond Bank in which Rhonda is meeting with them to see what they could offer with an RFP. How should we proceed?

(Attached is the US/Solar Proposal in detail)

Savings are projected to be \$360,000 for 20 years. If we did go with a consultant, the estimated total would be between \$3-5,000 for Wilton, Jay and Livermore Falls.

David-What can we get for nothing before hiring?

Keith-Some mailings he has received say contract required and some others say no contract required.

David-Let's keep moving forward to see the options available.

(no m/m/s)

Item #6- 2019 Tax Foreclosures-Consideration of 2019 Foreclosures.

Rhonda-There are 4 properties left on the foreclosure list. On March 9, 2022 Rhonda sent out a letter after the certified mailings were sent. Property owners have not contacted us. There are 2 homes and 2 parcels of land.

Rhonda-Do you want to give another 30 days?

Last year there was difficulty collecting from one of these property owners . There was an attempted payment arrangement set up.

Tiffany-Let's give an additional 30 days for the homes

Keith-Can we do all four and come back after the next meeting to discuss?

Are the houses habited?

Rhonda will find out.

Keith/Phil m/m/s To wait and extend 30 days for all four parcels. (14 Gordon Rd., 23 Tobin Flat Road., 135 Tobin Flat Rd., 0 Merritt Gould Rd.) Vote: Unan

Item #7- Manager's Report

A. Nomination Papers-Selectboard & Schoolboard

One person has taken out papers for Tom Saviello, Selectboard Members seat. Tiffany has taken papers out for re-election.

B. Planning Board-Public Hearing, Amendments

Public Hearing is scheduled for April 7, 2022. There are four items they are considering. One item is additional updates on the Amendments to the Zoning & Marijuana Business Ordinance. Second item is an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance increasing the lot size requirement in Table B Space and Bulk Standards for Commercial uses in the Limited Residential & recreation zones to match the State model Shoreland Ordinance. The third item is an Ordinance defining Short-term Residential Rental and Guest options. The fourth item is to amend the Town Zoning Map to change 2 of the properties located off of High St. (83 High St-Tax Map 14, Lot 17) from Industrial to Residential 1 and 87 High St(Tax Map 14, Lot 26) from Industrial to Residential.

C. Update of PFAS Letter, Call Center Letter

Letters went out to Governor Mills. Thank you to Tom Saviello for the help in composing the letters.

D. Update of Lakeview Cemetery Survey and Monument

There is one more week on the survey. Rhonda did have a meeting with the Design company. She asked for the cost of the completion. She should have the rest of the information in about a week.

E. Update on Marina Lawsuit

The Town provided all information requested.

F. Recreation-Capital Account Purchase

The first step has been narrowed down to two mowing equipment companies. John Deere comes in less than the other. The amount needed is in the Capital Account, Portland Trust. The John Deere mower is the one preferred by the Recreation Department.

Phil- In regards to the Marina, is there a time limit before it expires?

Rhonda-Not sure what happens next, we are waiting on the judge

Item#8- Other Business

Keith-Is there a change with the Blueberry Festival Parade and the time?

Rhonda-It will be kept in the morning at 10:00Am.

David-The vote to keep it in the morning via survey was 52-53

Tiffany-She is glad it is being kept as Blueberry Festival.

Tiffany- Heinz Gossman, Superintendent of Water-Sewer provided information on Covid testing. She made a graph (attached) pertaining to the covid testing. There is a downward trend compared to Farmington. It is fairly equal. It is mostly the Omicron variant.

Phil/Tiffany m/m/s to Adjourn Vote: Unan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54PM