

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
June 7, 2022

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

Also Present: Mt. Blue TV, Keith Amato, Charlie Woodworth, Simon Thorpe, Chris Lynch, Matrix

Item #1- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of May 3, 2022

Phil/Tom m/m/s -To accept the Minutes of May 17, 2022 Vote: Unan.

Item #2- None

Item #3- Consideration of Approval of On-Premises Liquor License Renewal-Salt & Pepper & Sugar Too

Tom/Phil m/m/s To accept the Approval of the On-Premises Liquor License Renewal for Salt & Pepper & Sugar Too. Rhonda stated there have been no issues with the Police Department and taxes are paid. Vote: Unan

Item #4 -Consolidated Communications Presentation-Broadband-Simon Thorpe

Simon Thorpe has been with Consolidated Communications for 22 years. He wanted to show a Connect ME map for grant purposes but it was not available. Fidium Fiber is the new fiber product. Same company different brand. They are trying to separate from DSL. Slide show was presented. In regards to pricing, the 2 Gig will deploy sometime this year. Monthly pricing for 2 Gig is \$165 per month. The 1 Gig is \$70 per month, 250 Mbps is \$60 per month and the 50 Mbps is \$35 per month for the first year and then changes to \$55 per month afterwards. No contract is required for any of these plans. There will be no copper within the network and will build over what they currently have. They do participate in the Affordable Care Act.

David-What is the timeline?

Tiffany-Where are they building to and from?

Simon-Farmington, Temple, New Sharon, Industry. We will encroach a little in East Wilton. Nothing specifically slated for the town today. Connect Maine has a

mapping system that is used. When applying for the Grant, Connect Maine mapping system is used. Wilton would fare well with this.

Wilton would also fair well with a Grant. A lot of federal dollars are coming into the State to deploy networks. Part of Connect ME would consist of the cost of network. Consolidated Communications would need to bring money to the table. If we went by path of a Grant, we would build on every person within Town of Wilton.

Tom- He has Consolidated Communications, how does this fit into what Simon is proposing?

Simon- There are two completely separate networks. They will build over what is there. The fiber is not affected like copper. We want to do away with copper. It is resilient, very little make ready costs and is highly reliable.

Tiffany-What is the timeline?

Simon- We are trying to determine the build plan for this year. He doesn't think it will make it in the 2023 timeline. It is possible for the end of 2023, but more likely for 2024. It is anticipated to take 3-4 months to place the fibers.

Phil-Do you really mean all addresses? Because we are focusing on the persons who are in the middle of nowhere.

Simon-Yes, our goal is everyone.

Phil-The prices are symmetrical.

Simon- Yes, there are no hookup fees and it is symmetrical. There are no contracts or installation fees with the exception of the 2 Gig.

Tiffany-How many homes per connection?

Simon- 64 homes, but we will only do 32 because it is a better connection.

Phil-If the power goes out, fiber is a better back up?

Simon-It is very passive. If you have power or a generator you will have service.

Tiffany-What or if any costs, if a Grant goes through, are there town costs?

Simon-Other towns will go for money as well. Can't tell us what the number will be like. It is labor intensive to put together. The Town would possibly need to front if Connect ME were used. A Grant example: Searsport- To Build was 3 Million dollars. Consolidated Communications put in \$800,000. Searsport put in approximately \$204,000 and the Grant was 2 Million.

Item#5- Consideration of Engineering Amendment-Water Transmission Line-Dirigo Engineering

Rhonda-Additional Engineering cost of \$272,000 is for the replacement of the transmission line. We have completed the preliminary phase. (See Attachment). The original agreed upon amount was \$411,000 with a net change of \$8,000. The amended amount is \$272,000.

David-How does this fall in line with the Grant?

Rhonda- There is a shortage of \$272,000. Rhonda is not sure if it includes grant monies we are applying for. We could have Heinz and Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering come to next meeting for further explanation.

Tom- We should wait and get a further explanation or understanding.

David-He has concern with construction monitoring and we are not ready to go to bid.

Rhonda-Remember, we took on Dirigo Engineering for the entire program. We would go out to bid for the actual contractors.

David-Have Heinz come to next meeting.

Tiffany-She is in agreement. She is questioning the construction monitoring.

Item # 6-Consideration of Solar Net Energy Billing Proposal-Revision Energy

Rhonda-We have been at a meeting with three towns and the Livermore Falls water district along with Jonathon with Maine Power Options. It went out to bid, we are looking at solar companies with net energy. The whole program is changing. Initially, it was 20% reimbursement, we got 15.5% from Revision, the rates will be 12 to 14%. The law has changed some. There are not as many solar projects as before. If we go forward it would be 15% credit. It is a contract. Other towns are bringing to their board. We could have our Attorney review? Other towns would like to use our Attorney and share in on the cost.

David- He thinks they are worth doing but is there a way out if the Solar Farm is not built? As long as there are option(s) for getting out of the contract if needed.

Tom-CMP made it clear, there's increased projects by the millions. When would we receive reimbursement?

Rhonda-At end of this year. This contract Maine Options put forward. This has already been reviewed by schools. Do you want Revision Energy to come to a meeting?

Dave-No

Tom/Tiffany m/m/s To sign and accept the Consideration of Solar Net Energy Billing Proposal assuming we have good on-off ramps Vote: Unan

Item #7-Consideration of Renewal of Marijuana Cultivation Facility

This is a medical marijuana cultivator who is new. The individual is a grower with patients. The site has been approved by the Planning Board. The fee of \$667.00 has been paid.

Tom/Phil m/m/s To sign the Renewal of the Marijuana Cultivation Facility.

Vote: Unan

Item #8- Appointment of Planning Board Member-Ben Harnden, Keith Amato

There are 2 applicants for the Planning Board. One is Ben Harnden. He is currently on the Broadband Committee. The second is Keith Amato. It was of the intention he would be the alternate.

Tom/Tiffany m/m/s To make Keith Amato the primary member and Ben Harnden the Alternate.

Vote: Unan

Item #9- Manager's Report

A. Food Sovereignty Ordinance

Rhonda has a draft done and it has been sent to the Select board for Review to be discussed at the next meeting.

B. ATV Access Routes

Rhonda-We have received a fair amount of complaints at the beginning, after Memorial Day Weekend.

Tom-What are the complaints?

Rhonda-Loud, noisy, driving fast.

Tiffany-She's heard far more complimentary and only a couple of negative.

David-Inland, Fish and Wildlife stated that you are allowed 500 yards from property to an ATV access road.

Phil-The complaints consist of where?

Rhonda-Mostly on Temple Road. Too late at night. We have been giving out the Policy and there is a complaint log we are keeping at the office here and at the Wilton Police Department.

Tom-In regards to the Food Sovereignty Ordinance, could you ask MMA if there is any truth to it?

David-They amended it to the State level.

Tom-This is at Federal level. Does it have standing?

Rhonda-Do you not get permitting through the State with this Food Sovereignty Ordinance?

C. Other

In addition to the Manager's Report, Voting will take place on June 14, 2022 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM. The Town Meeting will be held on June 20, 2022 at the Academy Hill School and there will be a Barbeque beforehand.

Item #10- Other Business

Rhonda- She is in process of doing a follow-up with Mr. Webster in regards to the deeded access to the Waste Water treatment Plant.

Chris-Matrix- Spoke on the proposed agreement between Matrix and the Town. He stated in Sec 9.6 of the Agreement you can cancel the agreement as long as no monies were owed. There would be a mailing going out on who is covered along with areas not covered if Spectrum or Bee line services. They (Matrix) went for ones with no service. A difference is paying for a Right of Way on a utility pole. A kiosk is being provided to the Town.

David- He is questioning a \$60,000 cost. He thought we were down to \$43,000 or less?

Chris- He has sent an email with the updated agreement and the cost for pole survey. Casco Bay would be doing the survey on behalf of Matrix. The next step is pole locations on the Application forms which entails 200 poles per Application. About 80 percent of costs is make ready. If there is extra money from Grant money and we wanted to use it toward installation or reducing monthly rates, Chris would be happy to look into this. Municipal Lease=Municipal Build=ROW

Tom-In regards to the make ready legislation, do we apply or is it automatic?

Chris-Do a pole survey, put in pole application, do a joint ride out. We will present as worse case scenario. We are not looking to overbuild.

Tiffany-We are at a point where we can serve under served population. Let's move forward with that. People need internet.

Chris-Our Agreement is not exclusive.

David-He thought we were at \$43,000 but it is at \$60,000. The \$43,000 was coming from ARPA funds.

Chris- That \$60,000 doesn't include any grant money from Northern borders. It could be \$30,000. Charlie is waiting to hear from HUD. He was told 3 months and that was in March.

Tom/Phil-m/m/s To Accept up to \$43,000 and sign the Matrix Agreement.

Vote: Unan

Rhonda-She suggested moving the next scheduled Select Board Meeting from Tuesday, June 21, 2022 (which is the day after Town Meeting) to Tuesday June 28, 2022. She also suggested canceling the Tuesday, July 5, 2022 Select Board Meeting and moving it to Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Item #11-Tom/Phil m/m/s To go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) Personnel 7:13PM

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:45PM