

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
July 11, 2023

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

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

Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 11, 2023

TABLED

Item #2-MCA Grant

Brian Lipold, Consultant for the MCA Grant and Matrix.

(See Attached information)

There are some recommendations. We do not need to necessarily turn down the Grant but a decision needs to be made by the end of the month.

When the Grant was applied for, we were not aware that Spectrum (Charter) and Consolidated Communications was to acquire Bee Line Cable. Consolidated Communications is taking pre- orders for service in Wilton. This puts the Grant at risk. Our ability to achieve the 50% potential subscriber location is at risk with both Consolidated Communications and Spectrum coming to the area. The odds of the Town achieving 50% market share before construction is slim and at risk.

If we terminate the contract with Matrix, we need to do quickly, keeping in mind costs would have to be paid back or to be aware of any termination fees.

Recommendation are: 1. Discuss a decision of the Select Board with Matrix.

2. Provide Matrix with Notice of Termination as soon as possible. 3. Provide MCA with Notice of Termination of the Grant Award. 4. Accept Charter (Spectrum) offer to expand its network to 100% of Wilton.

David-Spoke on the initial agreement with Matrix of \$43,000=+/- . We used ACA money; we do not have a contract to continue the construction because more information was needed. If we terminate, do we have costs beyond the \$43,000 that we already paid?

Tiffany- It could clearly state, "We could terminate before construction installation has begun"

Perry- The installation has not started.

If we go to the Grant, pole rights would be the first to do. It would be a problem if we couldn't get the 50% market share.

Mike-Can we write an "out"?

Brian-You would need a pole attachment agreement

Mike also had a question on the 50% take rate and what the basis of this was.

Perry-It is based on 1500 households. 750 households would need to be signed up

Mike-Where is the promotion from Matrix?

Perry-The kiosks in the office. Matrix is looking for a commitment before anything else is done.

David-If we go with Fidium Fiber or Spectrum. The Town has no liability. It is in his personal opinion to cut the losses and run and not hold any liability for the town.

Tiffany-She has seen no advertising for Matrix but has seen advertising for Fidium Fiber.

Mike-Concerned with coverage on Village View, Fenderson Hill, Eastern Ave.

Tiffany-The served and the underserved is important. Coverage in the Town is important. She does not feel it is viable to move forward. Shall we invite Matrix to our next meeting?

Perry-suggests this idea. Why should we sign a contract. This is important and needs to be discussed, especially with the 50% take.

Mike is requesting Perry to check with Consolidated Communications and Spectrum to ask if the areas can be served.

Tiffany stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Item #3-Liquor License-Meadow Lanes

There have been no issues with the Bowling Alley. The taxes are paid.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To Accept the Liquor License for Meadow Lanes.

Vote: 5-0

Item #4-Memorial Area Turn Around

Perry met with the owner. Perry needs more time with him(owner). Perry would like to get this taken care of to prevent litigation.

The (owner) does according to records own this. It has been surveyed. Perry would like to also meet with both Mr. Butler(Owner) and Mr. Cousineau(Abutter) to discuss options.

Mike questioned Right of Way Law and suggested Paul Mills. Mike stated that he is a good Right of Way Attorney.

Tiffany-We want to maintain this Right of Way and giving Perry the leverage and time is appropriate.

Nancy Walters-Resident-She has lived in Wilton in a family of four generations and has concerns on if this turn around was closed off, there is concern for propane, oil deliveries and the busses. She also had a question on who has paid the taxes on this?

Justine Nazar-She has been a resident of Wilton for 47 years. The Turn around is needed for both way access. This could become a safety issue. She feels there could be a loss of business because of this.

Keith stated that U-turns are allowed by the Post Office and was approved by the Wilton Police Department

Sandra Muller-She is concerned if cones are put back up like they have for the last two Fridays, a discussion needs to take place. There needs to be a system.

Item #5-Cannabis Ordinance Update

Perry is suggesting that Keith, Mike and two Planning Board members (Dr. Parker and Keith Amato) get together to work on the Cannabis Ordinance.

Keith-Is there an end point or goal?

Perry suggested having a meeting to discuss goals.

Tiffany stated that holding a meeting is prudent and there are no consequences. She is suggesting that goals and objectives are a good idea.

Perry set up a meeting for Thursday July 13, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.

Item #6-Office/Water/Sewer Union Contract

Perry has met with the Shop Stewart and the Union Representative to make some clarifications and would like the Select Board to sign and to make a motion.

Tiffany-In the past we have counter signed after the Union has signed first.

David-The Union should sign first

Perry will put on the agenda for next Tuesday and have the Union sign the contract first.

Item #7-Solar Credits

Perry said that this would be 15% of our total bill in regards to savings.

Perry is suggesting to move forward with the contract and sign.

Motion by Mike/Second by Keith-To Move forward and sign the Solar Credit contract.

Vote: 5-0

Item #8-County Tax Update

There will be an increase of approximately \$200,000 to the Town of Wilton
1 mill=\$197,000. 4-4.5% increase for Wilton. The county increase is approximately 26%

Perry thinks we need to speak up. 74% is for the Sheriff, Jail and Dispatch. Five towns with Police departments pay 52% of this.

Tiffany- She doesn't disagree and agrees that it has to be at the county level.

Tiffany has worked with people on and off the committee. Change is necessary.

Item #9-ARPA Funds

Perry is proposing to look into our funding and see what our needs are. For example-computer needs, infrastructure.

Keith is suggesting that a list be given on what has been spent.

Perry will provide a list in reference to what was committed. We should ask the county for some ARPA money.

Item #10-Other

-John Masse-Highway Foreman gave a "quarterly" update.

The Transfer attendant and the Transfer Station Manager resigned.

We are having an issue hiring someone. John proposed a potential schedule change with Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays (with the exception of the Manager being there on Tuesday) being closed and Wednesday 9-4:30P.M., Thursday 7-2:30P.M., Friday 7-2:30P.M. and Saturday 7:00-2:30 P.M. This is being proposed to be effective for August 31, 2023

There have been three interviews on Attendant position.

Keith wants to leave the hours as is.

John has been having difficulty to prevent overtime from the Highway Department. This is why the change of hours is being suggested.

Perry stated that life changes. A lot of Transfer Stations are not open on weekends.

Tiffany-What is the hourly rate?

John-\$19.67 for the Attendant and \$19.96 for the Manager

Mike-Is it possible to continue to pay overtime as it is now until we have more data?

John-Every other weekend there would be two guys with the weekend off. Four guys would be on. This would be an issue.

Tiffany would like to review the email that was sent and discuss at the next meeting.

Mike and Tiffany are requesting a count or camera to get an estimated count on how many people go.

John discussed the fuel pumps issue.

Capital Improvements-John has listed for goals: Pick-up Truck (Bid)/Turn mower for the Cemetery (Bid)/Transfer Station dumpsters (Bid)/Sidewalk on Depot St-VPI Grant in which there is a 60/40 split. An engineer is needed along with an RFP.

Perry will provide list for next meeting.

-Varnum Pond Grant for Resource Protection

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To allow the Town Manager to apply for the Varnum Pond Resource Protection Grant

Vote: 5-0

-Mike-Franklin Savings Bank has reached out. Is there a possibility to compare rates?

Perry-They do not offer the services we need.

Item #11-Executive Session to discuss Manager's Contract under MRSA §405 6(A)

Motion by David/Second by Keith

This was withdrawn for public comment

Public Comment

Kate Cook-Resident-Seminole Drive

(See attached letter that was shared with Perry and John Masse)

There is an issue with drainage and paving. Farmington does the plowing.

John feels this is fixable and plan on building the road up.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To enter into Executive Session to discuss

Manager's Contract under MRSA §405 6(A)

Vote: 5-0 7:34 P.M.

Item #12-Adjourn

Motion by Mike/Second by David -To Adjourn

7:46 P.M. Vote: 5-0

