

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
July 18, 2023

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://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 June 27, 2023**

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of June 27, 2023

Vote: 5-0

**Item #2-Public to Speak on a non-agenda item**

None

**Item #3- Matrix Agreement**

**Matthew Dunn, General Management/Lauren Cassel, Account Manager for Matrix**

**(See Recorded Video for Presentation)**

**(See Attachment)**

Perry asked what would happen if the 50% take rate did not occur and what would happen if the Grant was not taken because the take rate was not received? Matt-Receipt of the Grant happens prior to the 50% take rate because eligible expenses only occurred after the Grant was executed. Would you like to own and manage the network and take that Revenue when you purchase the network after five years and reinvest into the community?

David-Were you in competition with other towns?

Mike-It is Spectrum vs. Matrix. \$59.99 100 over 100 symmetrical

Tiffany has a concern on the take rate concern. There are kiosks upstairs and some marketing has been done. What is the current take rate?

Matt-We haven't launched any market here other than the kiosks in the Town Office. The problem is eligible expenses do not occur until after we get the

contract signed by MCA. So, it's been minimal effort up to this point until we have a go.

Tiffany-How confident are you with the 50% take rate?

Matt-How does the expense schedule work or how much is it going to cost up front to find what the take rate is? The major expenses will be from make ready, which we would put the applications in to find out how much it is going to cost for all of the poles. The actual payment to the utilities that do make ready on the poles does not occur until far down the line. We probably have until the end of January and we can still stay on schedule.

Perry-The Town is not in the business of being a provider at this point. They will need to hire someone. It is not Matrix looking for pole permits, it is the Town that will be getting the pole permits and we are going to own them whether you hang onto them or not because that is the way it works.

Matt- It was never our intention to come here and provide broadband forever. Our intention or goal is to get broadband standing and then have the Town maintain and own the network.

David needs a more simplistic explanation. If we do not hit the 50% and we have spent the \$3.2 Million Grant what happens?

Matt-It is 25% upfront for each one of the players. 25% allocated fund, 25% Town allocated fund, 25% State allocated fund goes into the first deposit. If we do not get issued any more funds until we reach the 50% mark and if we do not reach the 50% mark, any of that money that remains in that fund is returned in the perspective investments. We do not keep that money.

David-Do we have to reimburse the State?

Matt-You would not reimburse the State. They are taking a risk too. So is the Town and so are we.

Perry-If the 50 % take rate is not met beyond the 25% (allocated fund for Town) Who is responsible to pay back if the fund?

Matt-The Federal Compliance states that we are taking 25% of the 1.5 million. We are putting it into an account along with the Town.

Perry-The Town does not intend to expend any other money.

Keith-The money that has already been expended.....\$359,000, We've already intended on paying you from where we are now. So, what you are saying, you only need 25% or is it 25% on top of that?

Matt-No, it is 25% of the funds of the \$360,000.

Keith-Do we still owe you?

Matt-If we don't get the 50%, we no longer draw the funds from the Grant. It is dead. Back to the drawing board.

Perry-I would really like for this to work but we need to make sure we understand our liability.

\$359,000 is the estimated cost of our portion of the project.

The Grant compliance is a three-way partnership. MCA, State and Town

A marketing budget could be provided

Tiffany-The MCA Grant is the next step. She is requesting a work session so that we may review where we are with Northern Borders Grant.

David stated it is to minimize the Liability for the Town. That is important.

Mike-the 3.6 million from MCA could reduce our rates.

Tiffany-Up to 90 percent is what we are risking. A marketing plan and/or expense schedule will be provided.

Motion by Phil/Second by Mike-To sign the MCA Grant

Tiffany is requesting a work session

Perry asked to amend the motion requested. We need an understanding of where we are at with the contract. Brian Lipold(Casco Bay Advisor) needs to be involved. Perry suggested to revisit the costs and numbers on August 3, 2023

Motion by Phil -To withdraw the motion

Motion by Mike/Second by David-To accept the MCA Grant without contingencies, get the contract and move forward.

David is concerned with the Liability.

The suggested motion is to be contingent on a workshop, review the contract and review the Liability of \$90,000.00

Perry suggested a motion to move forward with the acceptance of the MCA Grant.

Tiffany made a motion to move the vote.

Vote: 4-1 (Keith opposed) Passes

#### **Item #4-Appeals Board Application**

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil -To Accept the Appeals Board Application for Peter Robichaud

Vote: 5-0

### **Item #5- MMA Executive Board**

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To Sign the MMA Executive Board Form

Vote: 5-0

### **Item #6- Manager's Report**

-Perry received a complaint on the Hawaiian Theme for the Blueberry Festival. Because of cultural diversity, keep this in mind with event planning.

-There is Appeals Training tomorrow Tuesday July 19, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.

-Hardy, Wolfe and Downing reached out in regards to the accident in Jay. Our Town Insurance is handling this.

### **Item #7- Other**

#### **A. Catering Event-Western Maine Play Museum**

Motion by Mike/Second by Phil-To Accept the Western Maine Play Museum Catering Event. (Calzaolaio Pasta Co) Vote: 5-0

#### **B. Catering Event Blueberry Festival**

Motion by Phil/Second by David-To Accept the Catering Event for the Blueberry Festival. (Rum Runners) Vote: 5-0

#### **C. Sewer Interest Rate Change**

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To Accept the Interest Rate of 8% for Unpaid Wastewater bills. Vote: 5-0

#### **D. Town Manager Resignation**

Perry submitted his letter of resignation that will be effective for November 1 , 2023. Perry requested Executive Session so that ideas may be discussed for his position.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move with disappointment to accept Perry's Resignation letter. Vote: 5-0

### **Item #8-Adjourn**

Motion by Keith/Second by David-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 7:05 P.M.

