

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
August 1, 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 July 11, 2023**

Motion by Phil /Second by Keith -To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 11, 2023

Vote: 5-0

**Item #2- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 18, 2023**

Motion by Keith /Second by Phil -To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 18, 2023

Motion to Amend and Approve as amended the Minutes of the Select Board of July 18, 2023 (The correction is for item #4-Memorial Area turn around. Spelling correction on Keith's comment and correcting to U-turn. This is actually in the Minutes of July 11, 2023)

Vote: 5-0

**Item #3-Public to speak on non-agenda item**

Charlie (Lavin) had a question in regards to Matrix and service on Fenderson Hill. They are marking it again for CMP may dig and replace the line which would give an ideal opportunity for Matrix or whomever to piggyback and put their line into the ground, maybe nearby.

Perry will address this topic in his Manager's Report.

#### **Item #4- National Wildlife Refuge Proposal Discussion**

Presentation given by Bob Carlton, Consulting Forester and Tom Saviello  
(See Attached Letters for detailed information.)

The study area for this proposal is from Bigelow to Crawford to Mount Abram, Salem and into Byron. It is approximately 200 +/- acres. The purpose is to keep what is here, keep this open for things we like to do such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, ATVing, mountain biking, bird watching.

The attached letter(s) are to express opposition to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's pursuit of a national Wildlife Refuge in the High Peaks Region.

Bob Carlton & Tom Saviello are asking that the Select Board sign the attached letter on behalf of the Municipality.

Motion by Mike/Second by David-To Sign the Letter addressed to Senator Collins, Senator King and Congressman Golden on behalf of the Municipality to express opposition.

Motion by Mike to amend the motion. It is suggested to make the change so that the attached letter for signature will state Wilton Select Board and that Tiffany will sign for the Select Board.

Vote: 5-0

#### **Item #5- Appeals Board Application (Alternate)**

Maxine Collins has completed application for the Appeals Board as an Alternate.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Accept Maxine Collins as an Alternate for the Appeals Board.

Vote: 5-0

#### **Item #6-Union Contract Office/Water/Sewer (Sign Contract)**

The Union Contract for the Office, Water & Sewer Department has been signed by the Union. Perry is requesting the Board sign this.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To sign the negotiated Union Contract for the Office and the Water and Sewer Department.

Vote: 5-0

## **Item #8- Other**

(See Attachment on Requirements for Zoning & Marijuana Ordinance Amendments)

Cannabis-There is a meeting with the Cannabis Committee, Select Board persons and two from the Planning Board.

Perry stated that a moratorium has not been done since 2018. He has looked at other towns to see what they have done. The steps are as follows: 1. The Planning Board meets, discusses the zoning aspects and has a public hearing. 2. The Select Board will need a Public Hearing also.

There are Planning Board requirements. We are probably looking at the Moratorium. Our Town Attorney, Sally is on vacation this week but could get us the ordinance after she gets back.

Perry also stated that if there are any changes, another public hearing would be needed. The Cannabis Ordinance will be worked on.

Mike wants to define how many, clarification on fees and fines. Clearly defined penalties for the people who do not follow the ordinance. We need to differentiate the difference possibly between medical use and recreational use fees. In our current ordinance we do not have a table of fees that really addresses clearly what the cannabis fees are going to be. It does not differentiate between initial and an annual review. We want to add some portions to the current ordinance. The fees and the fines need to be clarified.

It is believed that there are four businesses that do not have a permit though the Town. Conversation took place with the OCP (Office of Cannabis Policy) to see if whether or not we have to give them a 30-day notice per State Regulations.

Mike-In the draft ordinance it talks on tiers which is not included in our current ordinance about the different tiers that the State uses; tier one, tier two, how many plants, how many square footages of canopy etc. We are going to proceed with extracting data from the draft.

Perry-This is a legislative body, Select Board, Town Manager form of government. It was easier in my past for I could just take them to the town council. We had an annual town meeting and then the Town Council did everything throughout the year including having the meetings for changes to ordinances.

**Matrix**-We did get clarification on Fenderson Hill & Fernald St-What was included was the underground work in cost. The Town is not going to sign anything until we have a contract with Matrix.

What has changed recently is that the pole attachment rights are under dispute. Tiffany stated that Matrix would provide full outlay including a capital schedule and full costs and the MCA Application. We need to review all of this and have our Attorney review.

**Website**-Tiffany stated that we do not have the capacity for inhouse updates. The proposal is for local website content people. The average cost is \$50+/- per hour. Renee currently takes care of our Facebook page. Perry proposes to get the cost and will also have an updated ARPA list. It seems that \$2-3,000 annually is what is spent for annual website work or updates. We need to get completely caught up.

**Transfer Station**-Tiffany was able to get some numbers of people who went to the transfer station based on a motion sensor.

7-15-23	247 people	7-22-23	301 people
7-16-23	213 people	7-23-23	326 people
7-18-23	193 people	7-25-23	187 people
7-19-23	207 people	7-26-23	Too windy

We are fully staffed at this point. We are in the process of training 2 new hires within the Public Works Department.

Public Works is still in the Union negotiations process.

**Sewer Problem on Rt 2**-Keith is requesting an update on the sewer problem on Rt 2. David stated that Community Action went and a new septic system was installed.

**Lifemade Concern**-The Manager of Lifemade(Jarden's) is concerned with the access road. It is in need of repair.

Perry stated that 193' of the road is town maintained. This will be added to the list of road work/repair.

### **Item #7-Manager's Report**

**(See Attached List of discussion topics)**

**Town Manager Replacement**-As of today, we need to put together a plan for my replacement. Perry is requesting an Executive Session for the next meeting.

**Matrix**-The first result will need to be a new contract with Matrix.

**Water Line Replacement Bonding**-Perry has not spoken with Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering lately. Two bonds are needed. First, we need an agreement for the bond that the Select Board will have to sign off on. Then we will need to go and borrow the money ourselves for the first 7.5 million. Perry will get a report of what has been expended to this point.

**Cemetery Monument**-It is hard getting the three committee members together. It is a priority to get it done this year.

**Mooring Litigation**-This has already been to court and is probably about two months out before we get a decision.

**Pole Rights**-This is a Matrix deal. The MCA Grant is a piece of that.

**Pickup Purchase**-This is for the Highway Department. We have gone out to 6-7 places looking for a new pick-up truck, which was in the budget last year. There was none available. We are looking at getting this done. Once done, the other public works truck will go to the cemetery.

**Police Contract**-The Police Union Contract has been updated and completed today. It will be sent out via email and is hoping to bring it to the next meeting.

**Public Works Contract**-This is still in the process and are waiting another meeting.

**RHSA**-(Retirement Health Savings Account)-Perry has a Zoom meeting on Wednesday with staff and Mission Square to explain the conversion of the tax-free account.

**ARPA Fund allocation**-Perry should have something for the next meeting. He is having issues with getting into the portal to get the previous information. He will continue to work on this.

**Lawsuit from Jay Police Chase & Alleged burglary involving driver and passenger**-Our Town Insurance is handling this and a letter was sent stating we were not involved.

**Square Passage Issue**-There will be more information for the next meeting. Perry needs to speak with our Town Attorney, Sally to find out what our next route is.

**Tax Rate**-Our Tax Rate will be coming up to be set soon.

**December Storm Reimbursement FEMA/USDA**-The paperwork is being worked on.

**Cannabis Application Moratorium & Ordinance Update**-Discussed earlier

**Cannabis Ordinance Refund**-The State will go back three years for reimbursement. We could recoup all of the costs we have expended thus far. This will be researched.

**2022 Audit Completion**-2022 Audit is still in the works. RHR Smith has had change in personnel. Perry will suggest going out to bid for other Auditors. Invoicing will not be paid until we have something.

**Numerous Ordinance updates (Shoreland and other)**-We have other ordinances that need updates. The Planning Board are working on a couple right now. We have an appeal currently.

**Item #9-Adjourn**

Motion by David /Second by Keith-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 7:09P.M.

