

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
August 15, 2023

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://www.mtbluetv.org))

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

**Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of August 1, 2023**

Motion by David /Second by Mike-Move to Approve as written the Minutes of the  
Select Board Meeting of August 1, 2023

Vote: 3-2 Absent

**Item #2- Public to speak on non-agenda item**

Nathan Hiltz, Resident appreciates the Agenda's being put on the website.

**Item #3-Website Update**

Tiffany is working on the website. A proposal will be brought to the next meeting  
by Perry. It is hopeful that ARPA monies can be used. The anticipated cost is  
approximately \$5,000.00.

**Item #4-Investments**

Perry met with Androscoggin Bank. Our current interest rate is 0.85%. It will be  
increased to 2.5%. The difference in income would be \$55,000 in the now to  
\$165,000 in a year. This would affect our Sweep Accounts. Perry is intending on  
bringing forth another option of 5% +/- . CD's should be looked into. Whomever  
puts the budget together needs to plan on how the money is to be spent. If there  
is money not to be used for a period of time (but will be within the budget year) a  
three-month CD should be considered.

ME PERS-In 2015 there was 1.2Million. At this time, we are only down  
approximately \$140,000. We have spent out about \$850,000 in retirement  
expenditures. 8.5% Interest.

### **Item #5- Moratorium**

Most of the Cannabis Committee thought that the Moratorium would be good.

Perry spoke with Bernstein-Shur and would like permission to use them. Perry feels there's not been much luck with Sally, our Town Attorney.

The Moratorium goal would be to stop all applications.

Motion by Mike/Second by David-To use Bernstein and Shur for this Cannabis Moratorium.

David-What is it going to cost?

Perry is not sure at this time but it says it is not going to cost us anymore than having Sally start from scratch. Perry is guessing approximately \$1,000.00. Sally did not have anything table ready.

Tiffany-By doing so, we can use other legal representation without breaking anything?

Perry-He doesn't feel this is an issue. The Town has to choose, the Select Board has to choose an attorney firm to use. It doesn't mean that we don't use other attorneys for other firms that's a primary for us.

Vote: 3-2 Absent

Mike-How long is this going to take them?

Perry stated that a sample Moratorium will be presented at the next Select Board Meeting.

Mike-How would this be dated?

Perry-He will see about backdating this.

Tiffany-To clarify, there will still be a process and a review?

Perry-There will need to be a public hearing and possibly the Planning Board will need to have a Public Hearing. It is split between two pieces instead of having them conjoined into one with the Cannabis Ordinance being zoning and the ordinance itself.

### **Item #6-General Assistance**

Perry explained that the State took away the money that was used for hotel expenditures. It was supposed to be 100% that would have been enacted into Legislature but it did not get passed nor was it discussed so therefore it is only 70%. (An act to expand the General Assistance Program was not heard during

this 131<sup>st</sup> legislative session. The expansion would have allowed for 100% return on all temporary housing costs and would have increased the return for all other costs from 70% to 90%.)

\$5,000 has been already used out of \$8,000 budget. Wilson Lake Inn has been the option for the hotel.

Mike-Are there repeat persons?

Perry explained that the State says if a person is in a specific town for one day, we have to assist. If you are homeless, one day is the ruling.

Perry-There have been two people. One person is in process of transitioning out for more permanent housing. The other one we are doing what we can.

Tiffany-We are mandated. (Privacy purposes)

Mike-This is an unfunded mandate.

David-You cannot expend more on a line item. The money would need to be appropriated and/or raised or use contingency or a special Town Meeting would be needed.

Tiffany also stated than there are over runs.

Perry also stated that there are other factors in the budget that allow us over runs. It is not good budgeting practice though.

## **Item #7- Other**

### **Liquor License for Comfort Inn**

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To Approve the Liquor License for the Comfort Inn

Vote: 3-2 Absent

### **New Manager Search**

Perry would like to put an ad out next week for the Town Manager search. The Select Board will need to decide how to go about the interview process. There is \$85,000 in the budget. Perry would like to get this process started. How much advertising should be done?

David suggested Maine Municipal Association (MMA), Sun Journal, Franklin Journal and the Daily Bulldog.

Perry is uncertain with the Sun Journal and he feels that 5 years' experience is important.

Tiffany questioned the review of Applications.

Perry suggested placing the advertisement for one month. Perry also reminded that we are an equal opportunity employer and he also felt it is important that experience is quite important.

Mike-Can he recommend the Select Board or a Committee to choose an Applicant?

Tiffany suggested that a search committee be added to the next Select Board meeting for discussion.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To Post the Town Manager job

Vote: 3-2 Absent

### **Cannabis Ordinance**

Mike saw the email and will work on a re-draft.

### **Franklin County Commissioners**

Tiffany explained that one of the Warrant(s) that was presented by the Commissioners and the Committee was refused. This pertains to the County wide budget including debt service, non-profit and infrastructure. They are asking that each individual line item for outside agencies be presented to them at their next meeting. The next meeting is August 22, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. If the warrant(s) isn't signed Tiffany is hoping to ask that our money be returned back. The total budget amount is \$347,048.00. If we do not ask for it back, it would go back into the undesignated fund. Perry will be attending this meeting.

Perry-We pay about 12% of the total budget which is approximately \$40,000 of our money.

Mike-We are paying a lot for a little.

Perry-\$950,000 went into the Police Budget.

Perry stated that he believes this is correct in that 72% of the budget is for the Sheriff's Department, Jail, Dispatch and Jail Debt. Five towns pay 53% of the total budget.

David-It seems unethical that the Commissioners are refusing to pay. The assessments have been sent already.

Perry-We are paying \$251,000 more than last year.

### **Item #8-Manager's Report**

(See Attached)

We received some dividend money. The Mod Rate is increasing.

The Safety Program is being worked on.

Perry has a goal on doing monthly meetings with department heads.

The Public Works has a tentative agreement with the Union. This is in place as of today.

In regards to the Water Department Grant-Next Spring , we are looking to finish up the Grant. When money is received, we need to take a serious look and see how we can utilize the money versus the water rates. Perry did speak with Androscoggin Bank and discussed a draw down account for the Water Transmission Line Project.

**Item #9-Adjourn**

Motion by David/Second by Mike -To Adjourn

Vote: 3-2 Absent 6:40 P.M.

Perry suggested a workshop on banking options.

