

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
October 3, 2023

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

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

**Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 19, 2023**

Motion by Phil /Second by Mike-Move to Accept as written the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 19, 2023

Vote: 5-0

**Item #2-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 26, 2023**

Motion by David/Second by Phil-Move to Accept as written the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 26, 2023

Vote: 5-0

**Item #3-Public Comment on a non-agenda item**

Nathan Hiltz-Resident spoke on a concern on the defunct practice of Quarterly Reports that the Department Heads used to do. This is a benefit to the Townspeople. The Library Directors Report is important as well. It is with hope that future discussions with the new Town Manager would create an opportunity to review this practice. The reports give a historical value.

Mike-Thanks for bringing this up. It is important.

Perry-You will have to pay the employees to come.

Keith- It is worth it.

**Item #4-Sidewalks Depot Street-MDOT Presentation**

Tabled until October 17, 2023

### **Item #5-Halloween Event**

Renee Woodard, Events Coordinator is working with Ethan Kyes, Police Chief to do the same kind of event prior to Covid. She is looking for permission to shut down High St from Weld Rd to the Municipal Parking lot.

David-Is there a time frame?

Renee-5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Roads will be closed at 5:00 P.M. If you will give permission to 7:30 P.M. that would be great.

Mike-Did Ethan have a suggestion as to what has been done in the past?

Renee-It has been the same general time that they have always done. It started around 2016 and switched it downtown during Covid, parade style.

Mike made motion/Second by David- To accept the time for closure per Ethan Kyes, Chief of Police on 10-31-23 for the Halloween Event.

Renee-The Wilton Group is putting together an event on October 14, 2023. It is the Fall Festival Event in the Monument area. Renee is looking for permission to close down the area of where Key Bank (Cousineau Property) and James Butler and towards Calzolaio's.

David-Have you talked to any of the Businesses?

Renee-I am still waiting to hear back from Calzolaio's and Cousineau's but James Butler was ok with it. Main St would not be closed.

Perry- What is the time frame?

Renee-1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on October 14, 2023

Perry-He feels the owner's need to be talked with first.

Motion by Mike/Second by David to Approve the Fall Festival Event and the use of the parking areas only if there is no objection from the business owners being Calzolaio's and Cousineau's. It is requested to get this approval from them in writing.

Vote: 5-0

### **Item #6-Cannabis Licenses**

#### **Shane Gardiner (Attached)**

Perry-One of the things that we do here is every October we do junk yards.

(Renewals) It is up to the owner(s) to apply and submit their license information.

Gary, our Code Enforcement Officer discovered that this license (for Shane Gardiner) was six months overdue. There will be a \$50 fine. No one's brought this forward to the specific time. This license will be dated for October. Perry

suggesting that the new ordinance that we set a date that they are all due. If the applications are not received, we will fine them. Shane has a lease from Rick Collins. Perry is asking the Select Board to sign the License.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To move and approve Shane Gardiner's Cannabis License.

Mike-As mentioned by Perry, we are rewriting the ordinance to have some teeth. The ordinance we have now has "teeth", that we are have not been utilizing. We need to enforce our Ordinance. We also need to have a Code Enforcement Officer that can and has the right qualification to levy a fine or to do a stop work order.

David-That is why we increased the Code Enforcement hours from 20 hours to 40 hours a week so that it could be active enforcement on all permits and all ordinances.

Mike-That's not the point. The point is as Perry has pointed out to me our CEO has not got all the right qualifications. The reason we did not fine the last time when they were doing business for four or five months without a permit.

Perry-That isn't the reason. The reason we started an investigation. The State, OCP started an investigation. They are the ones that said they were operating and they were coming to inspect. Gary can levy fines if needed. We can levy fines for our ordinance. But if the ordinance were written correctly, there will be no questions but will be held accountable for not taking care of it whether it's a code officer or the individual with the permit.

Mike-We will have to have this discussion offline because this is not the discussion we had after one of our previous meetings. As far as why we have not enforced our current ordinance.

Tiffany-This is why we have a moratorium we are proposing so we can rewrite this ordinance so it is clear in the ordinance where it does say the Select Board may not grant licenses. There is a difference between may and shall. Shall not -there is no interpretation on shall not or may not.

Mike- There is a direction to levy fines for operations that are not permitted. That was never done.

Gary-Perry and I have talked about this since March, March the day I found out. We both have been in agreement every step of the way about those four licenses you want to reference so much. We have done an agreement, we have talked it out, we have brought in OCP to discuss this issue. So, for you to sit there and tell

everybody I am not able to do my job. That is a falsehood. I have many certificates.

Tiffany-I am going to reel this in. This is about Shane's license. I didn't want Gary to address it but going back to Shane's license.

Vote: 4-1(Mike)

**Frank Berengl (Attached)**

Perry-Frank Berengl purchased his building that previously had cannabis.

Keith corrected Frank's last name to Berengi

Motion by David/Second by Phil-Move to approve the Cannabis License for Frank Berengi.

David-Has the place been inspected?

Perry-Yes it has been inspected and taxes have been paid.

Mike-This is an issuance on time versus after the fact.

Perry-This is a new license.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #7-Junk Yard Permits**

**Michael Stickney (Attached)**

**Howard Haggan (Attached)**

**Rick Collins (Attached)**

David-There are no issues with any of them?

Perry-There have been no issues that we are aware of. Gary has said that Collins junkyard is at least going down vehicles and vehicles are being hauled out of there on a regular basis.

Motin by David/Second by Phil-To move and approve all three of the Junk yard Permits.

Keith has a clarification on Collins', the State Law and the junkyard(s) not being seen from the road. So, Keith is assuming that this can not be seen by the road.

Perry-I can't say that.

Gary-The vehicles have been taken care of.

Tiffany asked Gary if they were in conformance. You can not see the junkyard from the road.

Gary stated as correct.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #8-Planning Board Alternate Position**

**Jay Cummings (Attached)**

Motion by Mike Second by Phil-To Accept Jay Cummings as the Planning Board Alternate on the Planning Board.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #9-Recreation Committee**

**Louise Hiltz (Attached)**

**Adam Smith (Attached)**

Perry is proposing Adam Smith to be accepted as a member on the Recreation Committee. Louise Hiltz will be kept on hold.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-to Move to accept Adam Smith for the Recreation Committee.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #10-Liquor License**

**Salt and Pepper (Attached)**

Perry-The Taxes are paid and there are no issues with Salt & Pepper.

Motion by David/Second by Phil to accept the Liquor License for Salt & Pepper.

David-Is this where we give an outdoor permit.

Tiffany-It is included with their application.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #11-Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting October 17, 2023**

(Attached is the Special Town Meeting Information that needs signature. Topics are establishing a Moratorium on Adult Use and Medical Cannabis Establishments and Zoning Ordinance Amendments.)

Motion by David/Second by Mike to Move and Approve the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 17, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Vote: 5-0

**Item#12-Wardwell Deed**

Perry-The Wardwell Deed was issued back in 1996 and was supposed to be taken off the books. The property is for sale and needs a Quick claim deed.

Mike- So that was on the books for back taxes?

Perry-Must have been in 1996 so Perry does not have record of this. This is all the information he has. Perry received request from the attorney that is trying to sell the property.

Mike-We don't know if the taxes were ever paid or not?

Perry will research and put it for the next meeting. There's a lot of stuff in this town that has not been recorded.

Motion by Phil/Second by David-Move to issue a Quitclaim Deed for the Carl Wardwell property located on Map 12 Lot 18.

Vote-4-1(Mike)

### **Item#13-Town Manager Selection Committee Appointments**

Perry stated there are two for the Town Manager Selection Committee. Nick Santora and Amanda Lee.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To approve and appoint Nick Santora and Amanda Lee as part of the Selection Committee.

Vote: 5-0

### **Item#14-Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting October 17, 2023 (Duplicate to Item #11)**

### **Item #15-Manager's Report**

(See Attached Manager's Report)

County is asking for requests for Fire protection and trash (transfer station) for year ending 2025. Perry suggested a 20 percent increase.

David made motion/Second by Phil- To move to accept the Town Manager's recommendation of 20 percent.

Vote: 5-0

### **Item #16-Other**

Perry-When we joined AVCOG on the Resilient Grant for the heat pumps (for the Town Office), \$19,365 is the total with no match. Work can be done this Fall.

That would put a heat pump outside with four wall mounts on the inside.

Mike-Is the existing heat system staying?

Perry-Yes, we will be keeping the existing heat system.

Mike-That is one of the things recommended my Efficiency Maine. Don't strictly rely on heat pump.

Perry has to sign the Resilience Grant (Attached)

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To allow Perry to sign the AVCOG Resilience Grant for the heat pump.

Vote: 5-0

**Item #17-Potential executive session under Title 1 §405.6 (C) to discuss the Town Manager Search**

Motion by David/Second by Mike to enter into executive session under Title 1 §405.6 (C) to discuss the Town Manager Search

Vote: 5-0                      6:39 P.M.

**Item #18-Adjourn**

Motion by David/Second by Mike -To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0                      7:18 P.M.

