

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
October 17, 2023

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

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

Item #1- Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of October 3, 2023(Town Manager Interview Process)

-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of October 3, 2023

Motion by Phil/Second by David-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting October 3, 2023

Keith would like the attachments.

Motion withdrawn. These will be presented at the next Select Board Meeting.

Item #2- Public Comment on a non-agenda item

None

Item #3- Sidewalks Depot Street-MDOT Presentation

Perry spoke on the opportunity to see if we could synchronize the issue with the streetlights at the end of Depot Street. Maybe the sidewalk and streetlight projects could get combined and get federal funding.

Matt Drost of MDOT discussed the possibilities for sidewalk repairs/replacement on Depot St.

It is believed that Rhonda(previous Town Manager) brought up the concept of working on the Depot Street sidewalk from the Mill St site(Hearthmark a/k/a Jarden's) to the East Wilton Road. It is not feasible to combine the projects with one of the existing projects. Going forward, he is suggesting the town to consider the Village Partnership initiative. A sidewalk is an eligible project under this program.

Some of the highlights are: the Village Partnership has funding available in each of the three years of the current work plan.

Funding is available for 2024. This would be a Grant Program and is reimbursable. Because our valuation is under \$350 million, it would be a 60% state share and a 40% local share with state dollars.

The basic process would be to apply directly to the department. A letter would be written to the region engineer to ask for funding to be included for the project. The funding would be included in the work plan through 2024. Once the funds are awarded or an agreement is in place the town would use their own procurement and would hire our own Engineer.

Public and Professional outlook would be needed. The plans would have a 10-year life. Labor within the department is eligible within match funds
Expiration Date on Project? Expend within the same year. This would need to be verified with the region engineer.

Perry explained that it would be to move forward next year. We have to expend to get the reimbursement back from the state. For the engineering, we put the money up front. There is approximately \$40,000 in that account that is available right now. We have a sidewalks account that has approximately \$135,000. This could possibly count towards the 40%. He would like to push forward to get into next year, maybe 2025 budget season.

David-Is there money in the 2024 Budget?

MDOT-There is a rolling application process. There are 2024 Funds available. There will also be 2025 funds available.

David-If the Town sent a letter requesting to be a part of the program for next year, do we have to wait until the engineering is done?

MDOT-Whether the town goes for an RFP or engages with an engineering firm right away, it is our procurement process. State and local agreement has to be in place.

MDOT-It is first come first serve.

John Masse, Highway Foreman-In regards to time frame-He would like to get this by 2025 when school is not in session.

Perry-We need to have the funds available. We would like to do next summer but there is a potential that if funding is not available because we have to pay upfront costs. If we have paid out 40%, does the State pick up the bill at the end of that or do we pay it all and then we receive out 60% back?

MDOT-The typical agreement is that the whole cost of the project is born by the town and it is reimbursed upon acceptance from the engineering firm.

Perry-We have to set aside 100% of the costs of the Engineer and project cost(s). We have to figure out where the funds are coming from. It would be a capital expenditure out of the Highway department budget. Would the Select Board like for him to start looking with Engineers on the program?

Mike-Can ARPA funds be used?

Perry will discuss this with item #7(Other)

The consensus is Yes Perry can start looking with the Engineers on this program?

Item #4-Catering Event

Motion by Keith/Second by David-To accept the Catering Permit for Lafleur's Restaurant. This would be for the United Way event taking place on October 21 and 22, 2023 and October 28 & 29, 2023 at 128 Weld Rd Wilton. (Horror House event)

Perry- Sonny went to inspect along with two fire marshals and found everything to be in order. It was stated that in the future because tickets were being sold before approval, events should be planned with or should go through the events coordinator. That way there would be more knowledge of what is taking place.

Vote: 5-0

Item #5-Schedule a Special Select Board Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2023(TM Interviews)

There will be a Special Select Board Meeting on Wednesday October 18, 2023.

This will be to continue with the Town Manager process.

Item #6-Manager's Report

MDOT went to Mill St. John Masse, Foreman (Highway Department) patched 20 feet up on Mill St. This is closed for winter maintenance.

Renee has permission from Calzolaio's, James Butler and also the Wilton Historical Society in regards to space used for the Fall event.

Item #7- Other

There is a Police Grant for vests. We get this every year. It is a \$1,805 Grant. The vests are approximately \$1,000 each.

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Accept the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Police Grant.

Vote: 5-0

Item #8- Executive session under Title 1 § (6) D to discuss the Union Contract

Motion by David-Second by Mike-To go into Executive session under Title 1 § (6) D to discuss the Union Contract.

Vote: 5-0 6:46 P.M.

Item #9- Action (if any) on police Union Contract

Item #10- Executive Session under Title 1 § (6) A Town Manager Search

Motion by David/Second by Keith to go into Executive Session under Title 1 §(6) A- Town Manager Search

Vote: 5-0 7:43 P.M.

Item #11- Adjournment

Motion by David /Second by Mike-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 7:43 P.M.

