

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
October 18, 2022

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

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

Public Hearing on Water Rate Increases

Introduction- Heinz Gossman, Superintendent, Dalton Plante, Water-Wastewater Foreman, Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering

Opening Statement-See Attachment

Heinz-The Water Rate Increase is proposed as 10% January 2023 and 10% January 2024. The reasoning is to replace some of the transmission lines. Some of the lines are asbestos.

If the rates are not high enough, we can not get funding.

There are only 10-inch pipes now. It would be increased to 12-inch piping.

Our rates are low. We do have a comparison in rates with other towns. The increase would be \$6.13 per quarter for January 2023 increase and \$7.31 per quarter for Jan 2024. There would be a total of 55% increase by 2026-2027. (10% Jan 2023, 10% Jan 2024 and 35% thereafter, i.e. TBD)

After 2 years, this could be re-assessed. We would take into consideration of inflation. The project is an estimated 9 million Dollars.

Jim Lord-The New Rate is based off from the 2021 rates.

Nancy Walters-Resident- Stated she understands why this needs to happen.

The PUC regulates the Public Fire Protection and Sewer rates are based off from water consumption.

There was a question in regards to how long once completed the line project will last? Heinz gave an estimated 90-100 years.

In regards to financing-The Government does not take into account the poverty level. Population does come to play. Every Grant program is different.

Our State Average is based off from 2000 cubic feet which would be \$473 per year.

(There was no motion - To Adjourn) It was stated that meeting was closing.

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Item #6-Request from Recreation (Bjorn)

Frank Donald, Recreation Director discussed having work done to the entrance of Kineowatha Park, Tree work needs to be done. There is an aesthetic and safety factor. Frank is proposing to take \$3,500 from the Bjorn Account. Frank went to three different companies for a bid on the tree work.

-Hersey Tree Co

-Brooks Tree & Lawn Care

-Richards Logging

Hersey Tree Co bid \$3,500. Brooks Tree & Lawn Care could not beat that price and Richards Logging did not reply.

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Take \$3,500 from the Bjorn Account to take care of the necessary tree work at the entrance of Kineowatha Park.

Vote: 4-1 (Mike Wells Absent)

Item #1- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of October 04, 2022

Item #2-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of October 14, 2022

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil -To Accept the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of October 04 & 14, 2022.

Vote: 4-1(Mike Wells Absent)

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

N/A

Item #4- Set Water Rates for annual years 2023 and 2024

Rescheduled Public Hearing for Water Rates to November 15, 2022 6:00 PM

Item#5- Waterline Project Funding and preliminary Engineering Update

Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering did an analysis and funding presentation.

(See Attached Analysis and Funding Information)

A rate impact analysis was done if we were to proceed with the USDA loan/grant offer. Previous approved audit numbers were used as the basis of the expenses and revenues. A 3% per year increase in all expenses other than debt service was projected. Depreciation was not factored in. We would need a remaining estimated 55% when the debt service kicks in.

The USDA Offer is looking more promising. We can apply next year and we could get approximately 30 percent. The offer given from the USDA is 2.5 million in Grant and 7.5 million in Loan. We must use the loan first then we would receive the grant. The first payment would be due a year after completion.

One stipulation is that the iron products have to be manufactured in the United States per regulations. It is like a compliance.

(There was no motion made)

Item #7-Cemetery Committee Update

The Meeting date was discussed and was decided that this discussion would be moved to November 1, 2022. A meeting date would be set then.

Bill Rice-Resident and Committee Member stated that it has been approximately 2 years now and he really would like a site inspection.

Item#8- Blueberry Festival Committee

Item #9-Manager's Report

(These items (#8-#9) were not discussed due to Perry Ellsworth, Town Manager not being present)

Item#10-Other

None

**Item#11 & 12 -Adjournment & Executive Session under Title 1 §405.6A
(Personnel)**

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Keith- To Adjourn and go into Executive Session
under Title 1 §405.6A (Personnel) 6:53PM

Vote: 4-1(Mike Wells Absent)

Meeting Adjourned 7:09PM