

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
November 7, 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 Meetings

October 3, 2023 Special Meeting (Town Manger Interview Process)

October 3, 2023 Regular Meeting

October 10, 2023 Special Meeting (Town Manager Interviews)

October 12, 2023 Special meeting (Town Manager Interviews)

October 25, 2023 Select Board Minutes

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meetings of October 3, 10, 12 and 25, 2023

Vote: 5-0

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

None

Item #3- Stone Garden Grant

We were awarded the Stone Garden Grant for the Police Department. This was to help assist Border Patrol with protecting our borders. These details will be conducted in the Town of Wilton. We have received \$5,000 in hourly wages, \$1,380 in fringe benefits, \$3,500 in gear and \$200 in fuel. There is no match.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Accept the Stone Garden Grant.

Vote: 5-0

Item #4- Fingerprinting Grant

The Town of Wilton was awarded \$21,410 for a Live Scan LE Fingerprint System through the Homeland Security Grant. This Grant was a collaboration between the

Wilton Police Department and the Farmington Police Department. The money is spent first then the repayment is applied.

Ethan Kyes, Police Chief stated that this will be used in Farmington and that Farmington might take the brunt of the payment.

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Accept the Fingerprint Grant

Vote: 5-0

Item #5-Appointment of New Town Manager

Motion by David/Second by Phil to Appoint and Employ Maria Greeley as the Town Manager, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Road Commissioner effective 11-13-23.

Vote: 5-0

The Contract was signed at this time by Maria Greeley

Item #6-MATRIX Contract/MCA Grant

Perry explained that nothing has moved. There is no new contract. Perry suggested that the Select Board have a meeting on November 21, 2023 prior to the next Select Board Meeting to possibly determine whether we will go with Matrix or pursue other options.

It was asked what the consensus of the Select Board? Should there be a meeting with Consolidated Communications before the next meeting?

David stated that we are dead in the water with Matrix. Let's move on.

Tiffany agrees on a meeting to discuss the contract, Matrix and other options.

Item #7- 2022 Audit/2023 Audit

Karen Oliverie from RHR Smith will present our Town Audit along with the Water and Sewer Department Audits at the November 21, 2023 Select Board Meeting. It could possibly be an Executive Sessions meeting.

It is important to put the 2022 Audit behind us. Per the last Annual Town Meeting, any over runs would go into the undesignated fund.

We are still waiting for Management Letter. We need to get them started for the 2023 Audit as soon as possible.

Item #8- NorthStar Agreement 2024

Perry met via zoom with NorthStar. They are starting to cut back on subsidies.

There is an 11% increase in subsidy reduction. \$29, 072 is the Net Town Subsidy for year 2025.

Item #9-Manager's Report

-The Route 2 concern with speeding is continued to be worked on

-We have a police officer who has resigned. He is going back to the County.

The County has added 3 to 4 officers. Three are blue pins and one additional position with a cop's grant.

There are 5 towns in Franklin County that have police departments.

70% of the Budget is in the Sheriff Department, Jail and Dispatch. We pay 52% of the 70%. We should be getting more service.

Included is a presentation (fact sheet) that Ethan Kyes gave on the stats of different calls within the Wilton Police Department. There have increased calls on speeding, drug activity, domestics, aggravated assaults.

Perry explained the availability of a grant that would allow another police officer to the force. The Grant would pay the first \$40,000, with the max being \$125,000 total for the first three years.

David-We accepted this Grant with the Budget.

Perry-If the individual does not stay for the three-year term the money has to be paid back.

Ethan clarified that there is a 45-day window to decide.

David thinks it is a great idea. It is recommended that the new Town Manager look at the budget to see where we are at.

Perry will discuss with Maria (New Town Manager).

Tiffany stated that this will be addressed and discussed at the next meeting.

Mike-Well done on the rates. How often do we get back up from the Sheriff's Department?

Ethan-We have talked about it but have not done this.

Mike-They would come to Wilton to assist with more serious crimes.

Perry asked if Chief Kyes could share his story of Texas and a fellow police officer.

Chief Kyes shared the story of Police Officer Lynch having a case that he has been working on for quite a while stemming from Texas involving a 13-year-old child on a gaming website that led to child endangerment. Officer Lynch did a great job

with this case. There ended up being 5 different charges. He received a lot of praise. Phenomenal job!

Tiffany also congratulated him for a job well done!

-Nautilus (Solar power)-We should be seeing the 15% discount shortly. This is a 5-year contract.

Item #10- Other

-Tiffany thanked Perry for his service to the Town.

Perry expressed his joy to be here. We are destined for more success.

-There was discussion on MDOT and the traffic lights at the intersection of Route 2 & 45 and Depot Street. There are going to be stop lights.

It was understood from the last discussion that we would not be maintaining the lights but recently we were told we would be responsible. This agreement has not been signed yet. This will be a federal funded project.

-Perry suggested that the Select Board be frugal with the remaining money available in the ARPA funds. He felt it important to be frugal until the broadband is settled or where money is to be spent for certain.

-Perry is getting Maria prepared for her first day which will be Monday November 13, 2023.

Item #11- Executive Session under Title 1 § (6) D Union Contract

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To go into Executive Session under Title 1 § (6) D Union Contract. (Public Works)

Vote: 5-0 6:45 P.M. Out at 7:06 P.M.

Item #12- Executive Session under Title 1 § (6) A Personnel Issues (Town Manager)

Motion by David/Second by Phil- To go into Executive Session under Title 1 §(6) A- Personnel Issues

Vote: 5-0 7:21 P.M.

Item #13- Adjournment

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 7: 22 P.M.

