

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
November 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.

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

Members Present: Keith Swett, David Leavitt, Tiffany Maiuri, Phil Hilton, Perry Ellsworth, Town Manager, Mike Wells (via Zoom)

Also Present: Heinz Gossman, Superintendent, Dalton Plante, Water-Sewer Foreman

Public Hearing on Water Rate Increase

Introduction-Heinz Gossman, Superintendent, Dalton Plante, Water-Sewer Foreman

Opening Statement-See Attachment

Resident- How many people will ask for assistance?

Heinz-This is hard to determine. It varies.

Perry- The breakdown of the increase is \$0.16 day over two years. (Year 2023 being \$0.07 per day and year 2024 being \$0.09 per day) We are one of the lowest in the state. Financing is based on rates as grants can be as well.

Heinz-We are replacing the transmission line. It is currently 10-inch piping. It would be increased to 12-inch piping. Our rates are not high enough to receive funding. This is why we are in need of an increase to our rates.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To Adjourn the Public Hearing on the Water Rate Increase. Adjourn at 6:07P.M. Vote: 5-0

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

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Keith-To Accept the Minutes (with the corrected time of the Adjournment) of the Select Board November 1, 2022

Vote: 5-0

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

N/A

Item #3-Set Water Rates for year(s) 2023 and 2024

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To Accept the Water Rates as written

Vote: 5-0

Item #4- Police Recruitment Bonuses

(See Attachment on Bonus for Police Recruits)

The difference in bonus differentials shown is between: Rangeley, Farmington, Carrabasset, Jay and Wilton

Perry would like to discontinue bonuses to future recruits with the exception of the recruit that is in pursuit of hire at this time. This recruit would have a buyout cost of \$6,000.

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Allow the Town Manager to continue the Bonus Process for Patrolmen through December 1, 2022 and then discontinue the bonus process unless committed again by vote of the Wilton Select Board.

Vote: 5-0

Item#5- Manager's Report

(See Attached Report) There will be a new IMC system for communications for Dispatch, the jail, the Sheriff's Department and the local Police. We will need to pay for our present system for the next year during this transition. All municipalities will share in the total costs.

David is concerned that it is not a budgeted item.

Perry stated that it will be with next year.

Tiffany agrees that we are in need of this IMC system but is disappointed that it is not within the Franklin County budget. The whole amount of \$743,800 should be paid by the county.

Perry is in agreement with Tiffany. Unorganized territories pay approximately 7 percent of the county budget.

Ambulance rates are expected to be higher.

Trio is going to re-write our bookkeeping charts and the goal of this is to be completed in January.

Perry is gathering information such as pay wages and other union contracts to review and compare for our upcoming union contract negotiations that run out June 30, 2023.

Tiffany inquired on the MMA salary survey being completed.

Perry stated that it has not, the previous manager had not done the input. Perry doesn't necessarily agree with the MMA Salary approach.

Tiffany is looking for data.

Item #6- Open Positions

(See Manager's Report)

We are presently short one employee each for the Police Department, Water-Sewer Department and the Public Works Department.

Item #7- Other

Rob Lively, FOWL(Friends of Wilson Lake)

Rob spoke on the rebirth of Wilton along with the beauty of Kineowatha Park and Wilson Lake. Maintaining the health of the Lake is important. Our goal is to protect the Lake. FOWL does the following: Water Quality, Monitors the water for invasive plants. This season 1,109 boats were inspected.

There is the Lake Smart Program in which phosphorous levels are checked. This is in relation to algae.

FOWL does a Loon Program for 3rd graders.

During the Blueberry Festival, FOWL does free boat rides. The most recent festival had approximately 200 people.

There is a Documentary being worked on that will involve Wilson Lake and the Town of Wilton.

FOWL has received awards such as the 2021 Protecting the Quality of Wilson Lake. FOWL also received the 2022 Franklin County Chamber Commerce Community Service Award.

(See Attached for Report and Flier)

Item#8-Adjournment

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 6:41P.M.

