

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
November 21, 2023

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

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

Item #1- Minutes of the Selectboard Meetings

Motion by Phil/Second by David-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meetings of November 7, 2023

Vote: 5-0

Motion by Phil/Second by Keith-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meetings of October 17, 2023

Vote: 5-0

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

Wilton Resident-Shawn (Mainewire)spoke on a concern with illegal grow houses in his neighborhood.

Maria notified the Code Enforcement Officer along with the Police Department. Ethan Kyes-Police Chief explained that he has spoken with the Attorney General Office. They will not move forward with this concern due to it being legal in Maine.

David asked if it was based on illegal or a legal operation.

Tiffany stated that three have been brought to their attention. The Code enforcement officer will research.

Nick Santora asked about the monies pertaining to the police department for the speed issue that has been a concern.

Tiffany clarified that the money is paid by the County.

Nick Santora asked what services will be paid by the County?

---(Dec 19, 2023 Select Board Meeting-Clarified Nick Santora's conversation on the speeding issue. Keith questioned this- due to it being part of the marijuana

discussion. What monies is Nick referring to? The monies pertained to the Police Department and the possibility of installing more speed cameras or radar. So, to clarify, the money is paid by the County and the discussion was about us getting any return on the money paid to the County. This was what Nick's comment was and whether or not there was anything we could do about it, any return on our investment.)

Maria will follow up on this.

Shawn asked what kind of time period in reference to researching possible illegal grow house concern?

Tiffany explained the issue needs to be looked into along with the Ordinance.

Mike asked if this could be added to the next Agenda for the next meeting. He is hoping the number of Cannabis Operations could be clarified.

Tiffany said that if there is anything to report it will be on the agenda.

Item #3-Parks & Recreation Director Resignation

We received resignation of the Parks and Recreation Director as of February 2, 2024. The hiring process will need to be started. The position will be advertised. This position will likely be Full time not part time.

Frank was thanked for his dedication to the Town of Wilton. He has 35 years of service to the Town. He would like to be part of the Interview process. The park is more than a 7-3 or 9-5 job. He would be interested in doing some work as needed on a minimal basis.

Tiffany stated that this is big boots to fill. Frank has been the life light of the park.

Item #4- Cops Grant

There is a fact sheet attached pertaining to a consensus with different categories of crimes.

Maria explained that there is a deadline of December 15, 2023 to accept the Grant.

Ethan Kyes, Police Chief explained that this is a Cops Hiring Grant for an entry level cop with \$125,000 Maximum. It would cover 36 months. After this time period is complete the Police Department is responsible for 12 months.

David-The Grant will pay up to 75% up to \$125,000?

Ethan-For 36 months

Tiffany-It would be \$41,000 as a salaried line? How does that fit into the budget?
Ethan Kyes, Police Chief- The question was asked why do we need the Grant? This is because of the increased calls. We are a small town. We are down an officer and one officer is out. The Sheriff's Department will not help us. They are capable, but are refusing to.

Keith asked if there is money for a vehicle?

Ethan will figure out the car and gear. The Budget is approximately an 11 percent increase with the upcoming Budget.

David stated we still need to email the County to request assistance and this publicly needs to be made aware. Didn't the Budget allow for hiring a Detective?

Ethan Kyes-Police Chief-Yes but it did not take into account raises, benefits and bonuses.

Maria-At this time, the funding is not available for an extra person. If there were a resignation, you would replace for that position?

Tiffany asked on the \$41,000 for three years. If we are not full capacity then the Police Department would rely on Part-timers?

Ethan Kyes-Police Chief -Yes, we just hired 2 Part-time officers.

Tiffany stated when we increased by 1 Mill tax rate on our tax bill, shame on the County for not helping cover shifts.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To Accept the Cops Hiring Grant

Vote: 5-0

Item #5- Request for Special Select Board Workshop on 11-28-23 at 5:00 P.M.

Consolidated Communications is not available during the Week of Thanksgiving.

They can be available for 11-28-23. It is being requested to have a Special Workshop to discuss potential contracts with them.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To have a Special Select Board Workshop on 11-28-23 at 5:00 P.M.

Vote: 5-0

Item #6- Other

N/A

Item #7- Manager's Report

Shape inspections were done November 14-15, 2023. We can expect reports the week after Thanksgiving.

Maria met with the Department Heads in a group setting and will meet with them individually. She also met with the Office Staff and will meet with them individually.

The Office will be closed on November 24 and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. RHR Smith was not able to be here this evening to present the Audits. It is in the process of being rescheduled.

Maria was contacted by MCA regarding the Grant with Matrix. Discussion will be initiated in December.

Maria met with Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering along with Dalton Plante, Michelle Howatt and Linda Bureau. Easements are in the process of being finalized. Two new permits are being worked on. Maria is also working on getting bond counsel with Jensen Baird. It is suggested to send out RFP's (Request for Proposal) to Androscoggin Bank, Franklin Savings Bank and Camden National.

Item #8- Adjournment

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Adjourn

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

