

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
December 19, 2023

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

Members Present: David Leavitt, Mike Wells, Tiffany Maiuri, Keith Swett, Phil Hilton, Maria Greeley (Town Manager).

Item #1- Minutes of the Selectboard Meetings

Motion by Mike /Second by Phil -To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of November 21, 2023 as amended with the suggested edits corrected

Item #2-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.

Item#4- Keith asked for clarification on the statement, "The Sheriff's Department cannot help us". This should read The Sherrif's Department will not help us. They are capable but refusing to.

Keith also questioned the grammar on Maria's comment on the funding for an extra person. "If there were resignation, you would replace for that position." This was a discussion with Ethan Kyes, Police Chief. It was suggested the amendment should be a question mark.

Vote: 5-0

Motion by Phil/Second by Mike-To Approve the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of December 5, 2023.

Vote: 5-0

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

None

Item #3-Sewer Discussion

Dalton Plante, Superintendent of the Water-Sewer Department discussed the Sewer Department's Sludge/Compost Expense Line.

Dalton asked for approval to carryover monies left over on the Sewer Department Sludge/Compost Expense line to 2024.

The Water and Sewer Department runs from January to December. Last year, Heinz Gossman (Previous Superintendent) spoke on a 15% rate increase and that was part of a discussion for a potential 30% rate increase that would cover sludge disposal due to PFA regulations that were pushed onto us back in August of 2022. The allotment of that budget line was for \$200,000.00. \$100,000.00 of this came from the rate increase and the other \$100,000.00 came from our net position, essentially our checkbook. Due to careful management in our process, we were able to save ourselves effectively. Approximately \$78,000 is anticipated to be left in the sludge line. Dalton asked that the Sewer Department receive approval to move that amount back into our un-designated net position.

David-Do we need to wait until the books are closed?

Maria-She recommended to make a motion to allow this as a part of the total designation, whatever the balance is. The left-over amount would go into the un-designated net position. Maria conversed with RHR Smith (Auditors) and the Motion should be to approve the balance in the sludge line to allow a carryover as part of the unrestricted net position.

Motion by Mike/Second by Keith-To move and to discuss

Mike asked if we are still testing the sludge.

Dalton explained that we are not testing sludge at this time. The product that was tested was our compost product that we generated. The sludge itself which is in a liquid state was not tested directly. Dalton had a discussion with Heinz before he left and did some research.

Mike understands that the House and Senate had amended so if you tested and the testing was found undetectable, they would not require sludge removal to a landfill?

Dalton- At this time he has not heard of any amendment made to DEP for the State of Maine. We are currently under a one tier system to his understanding. This means it is not allowed to be land applied based on the LD 1911 Bill.

Mike-Are we still hauling sludge?

Dalton-Yes, we are still hauling sludge to the tune of approximately \$130,000 a year. \$130,000 a year for something that's effectively undetectable. A letter was written to the Governor with no response. We are looking for some form of relief. More research could be done on the DEP Directive.

Tiffany recommended that Mike contact Russell Black.

Vote: 5-0

Item #4- Cannabis Permit-Honeycomb Farm

Maria-We have an application that the Planning Board approved in 2019. The abutters notices were also done in 2019.

Gary Judkins, Code Enforcement Officer is looking for approval on this permit for Honeycomb Farm.

(Attached is the transcript specifically on this item)

Tiffany suggested to table this item until the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Town Manager research our moratorium and check with our legal attorney.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To Table the Cannabis Permit for Honeycomb Farm until the Next Select Board Meeting.

Vote: 4-1 Oppose (Phil)

Item #5- Spirit of America-(June 30, 2024 deadline)

We have until June 2024 to nominate.

Maria highly recommends to nominate someone and to keep this confidential if possible so that it would be a surprise.

Item #6- Parks and Recreation Director Update

Tomorrow December 20, 2023 by the end of the business day is the deadline for Applications. Keith volunteered to be part of the interview process. The remaining members of the Select Board consented.

Item #7- Other

David asked if there were any major washouts from the storm.

Maria-All roads are open as of tonight. Some may be one lane so caution is extended. John went through the roads and will notify FEMA. Maria believes the deadline is December 27, 2023 to report any damages we have in town.

The Fire Department had quite a few calls, approximately 34 as of 8:30A.M. this morning. A lot of flooding and trees down.

Keith praised Wilton Fire Department for a great job during this storm.

Mike praised the Highway department as well.

Item #8-Manager's Report

Maria provided a list of the Select Board Meeting dates for January through June 2024.

Christmas Eve and Christmas will be observed Friday, December 22, 2023 and Monday December 25, 2023.

Motion by David/Second by Keith -To approve the closure of the Town Office for the observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas on Friday, December 22, 2023 and Monday, December 25, 2023.

Vote: 5-0

Item #9-Executive Session under Title 1 §405 (6) € Legal

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To go into Executive Session under Title 1 §405 (6) € Legal
Vote: 5-0 5:33 P.M.

Motion by David /Second by Phil- To come out of Executive Session

Vote: 5-0 6:08P.M.

Item #10- Adjournment

Motion by David /Second by Phil -To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 6:09 P.M.

