

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
July 23, 2024

(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- Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2- Minutes of June 25, Selectboard Meeting

Motion by Phil/Second by David-To Approve the Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of June 25, 2024

Vote: 5-0 Unan.

Item #3- Public to speak on a non-agenda item

Nathan Hiltz, Resident spoke on the versions of the Wilton Select Board Minutes that are posted for public viewing contain more types of information than statute requires. He is grateful for this since it allows citizens to read some discussions from previous meetings. One vital element that statute does require as described in Title 1, Section 402, is all motions and votes taken by an individual member if there is a roll call. Most actions taken at Wilton's meetings do not involve the contentious subject matter that could become exhibits in a court case, which is what happened with some of Wilton's meeting minutes at a trial last summer. The minutes are required to be a written record of what occurred at the meeting rather than a narrative adaptation.

Item #4- Department Head Report:

Sonny Dunham, Fire Chief

Wilton Fire Department has 21 Firefighters and 1 Junior Firefighter. There are 2 firefighters out on medical leave. There have been 31 Calls in which 5 were mutual aid. The trucks are doing very good. Minor things have been addressed. (i.e. Handles and gauges). Ladder 7 is being recertified this Saturday morning (July

27, 2024) at 8:00 A.M. Chief Dunham does not foresee any issues. There has been a lot of training including a Big Water training which was held in Strong. There was also a 2-day rescue training in Farmington at the Highway Garage. Grants are also being worked on and there is a Knox Box project that is being worked on. A Knox Box is a secure key box system. Chief Dunham stated there are 19 that are in-service in town and he is waiting on 3 additional applications. Mike asked how has 21 Firefighters compared to the past, approximate 10 years? Chief Dunham stated that it has stayed consistent for years.

Keith asked about the building and equipment.

Chief Dunham did discuss a possible roof leak issue. There is an issue with the driveway and where the culvert is. This is a potential issue and DOT has been notified. There is concern of the engine truck bottoming out if this isn't addressed.

Ethan Kyes, Police Chief

Wilton Chief Ethan Kyes spoke about the following;

Case Reports; The Wilton Police Department had year to date 87 arrests, 184 incident reports, 1 fatal, 1 overdose death, 1 pending death investigation, and high number of juvenile offenses.

Department Structure; Sgt. Gerald Maccione went to the Sheriff's Office. The department has an opening for his position. Officer Brian Lynch has taken on the roles of Sgt, in an interim position.

Officer Keith Masse has completed his training as a firearms instructor for handguns, he is taking the urban Rifle instructor course in September. Officer Masse at that point will be a firearms instructor for handguns and rifles as an armorer for Glocks and Sig Sauer.

Officer Stephen Charles will complete his FBI TRILOGLY leadership course (3 weeks). Once Officer Charles completes the FBI TRILOGLY, half the department will have completed the FBI TRILOGLY Leadership course.

Grant; Wilton Police Department has completed 18 weeks of the COPS Grant and cost approximately \$24,000 for that time period with the government reimbursing \$14,000 to the Town of Wilton. We also applied for the Homeland Security Grant Program for access control doors.

Building Renovation; Last week requested a quote for the bathroom stall door installation and for the police side renovations.

Budget; End of 2023-2024 Budget appears with the additional spending of purchasing officers, bounces not calculated into the budget, the police department should be within budget for the year. Additionally, will have approximately \$14,000 coming to the Town.

Other information; We started converting all paper copies of the case file to the server. We are almost done with case files from 2018. New AG office requirement to add additional documents for collecting identity facts on individuals. The forms have 17 new field entries. We have updated 25 policies and requested an ACO Policy. We created a Wandering Person Program about to launch on Facebook.

Press Release: On 07/22/2024 the Wilton Police Department and MDEA conducted an investigation involving drugs. During the investigation, an individual was arrested for Aggravated Reckless Conduct, Eluding an Officer, Refusing to Submit to Arrest or Detention, and Driving to Endanger. Seized from the vehicle was drugs estimated to be over 300 grams and a substantial amount of suspected drug proceeds.

Item #5- Dedication of Town Office Walkway/Railing-Hazel Flagg

Hazel Flagg, Resident of Wilton spoke on her son Michael Flagg who recently died of pancreatic cancer. In 1983 Michael Flagg did an Eagle Scout Project. This project was the side ramp walkway/railing at the Wilton Town Office. She is requesting a dedication.

Mike asked if this would be legal?

Maria explained that she received a legal opinion from MMA and it is their opinion the legislative body should approve the dedication or plaque "in memory of" for town owned property, but if the Select Board decides to not go that route, the Select Board should be the ones to approve.

Tiffany feels conflicted. There should be a process.

Mike stated that this was brought to the Select Board.

Motion by David/Second by Mike- To Approve the Dedication of the Walkway/Railing at the Town Office.

Vote: 3-2(Opposed- Tiffany and Keith) Passed.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To authorize Maria to research the size and location of the plaque to be placed for dedication.

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #6- Blueberry Festival-Road Closure

-Colby Miller Road during road race 5:30 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

-Boat Landing 12:30 P.M.-4:00 P.M. (re-opening)

These were approved at the 5/21/24 meeting to close the Boat Landing on Friday 8/2/24 from 12:30-4:00 P.M. The boat rides are no longer happening, so there is no need to have the area closed on Friday.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To approve half hour closure for the Colby Miller Rd during the road race, 5:30 P.M. -6:00 P.M.

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To rescind the Motion to re-open the boat landing on 8/2/2024 12:30-4:00 P.M.

Vote: 5-0 Unan.

Item #7- Request for Extension of License Privileges for an On-Premises Establishment-Ambition Brewing, LLC

The permit from the State for brewery allows for taste-testing. There are no taxes or fees owed.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Approve the request for Extension of License Privileges for an On-Premises Establishment-Ambition Brewing, LLC

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #8- Request for Extension of License Privileges for an On-Premises Establishment-280 Main Street

There are no taxes or fees owed.

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To Approve the request for Extension of License Privileges for an On-Premises Establishment-280 Main Street

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #9-Discussion on East Dixfield Fire Truck

The recommendation is that Scott Dennett and Randy Hall (East Dixfield Fire Chief) offer a suggestion to request the Wilton Select Board to consider Section 9 (b) of our Purchasing Policy for an alternative method. This would require notice and a public hearing, per the policy.

It was discussed to go out for an RFP and have it slated for the 8-20-24 Select Board Meeting.

Motion by David/Second by Mike- Move to Approve getting an RFP created and sending it out.

East Dixfield Fire would send a formal request to vendors including the ones who already provided quotes. It is not a sealed bid.

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #10- Purchase of buoys for permitted swim areas

Jordan Schanck-Recreation Director-Buoys are required at the swim areas on Wilson Lake and Kineowatha Park. This is for safety reasons.

Fire Chief Sonny Dunham spoke on a concern of kids swimming off from the bridge. They are not supposed to be.

Jordan Schanck-Head of the Lake-the distance from the stairs to the ladder will be adjusted to coincide with the swim permit.

Maria would like to use \$4,941.34 in funds. She would like to use \$722.00 from the Mike Backus Account, \$2,976.00 from the Lambert Rec Account and \$1,255 from the Shible Account.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To use the suggested funds

Mike Backus Account-\$722.00

Lambert Rec Account-\$2,976.00

Shible Account-\$1,255.00

Vote: 5-0 Unan

**Item #11- Lake Stewards of Maine Letter Correspondence
(Attached information)**

There is a free Plant Paddle training on Thursday August 8, 2024.

This will be put on Facebook.

Item #12- Franklin County Solid Waste Interlocal Cooperation Agreement-2024-2025

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To approve the Franklin County Solid Waste Interlocal Cooperation Agreement-2024-2025

Effective for 1 year July 1-June 30. This covers Washington and Perkins Plantation.

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #13- Franklin County U.T. Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Protection-2024-2025

Motion by Keith/Second by Mike-To Approve the Franklin County U.T. Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Protection-2024-2025.

This is for Washington Plantation only.

Vote: 5-0 Unan

Item #14- Other

David spoke on the potential ATV parking. He has not had a chance to go through the list provided by Maria. Mike will go through this with David and revisit. This would be a huge benefit to the town.

Tiffany has received complaints on littering, pamphlets on windshields and on the playground equipment. She is proposing a littering policy.

Mike asked if we should work with the Planning Board?

Tiffany asked if this would be worked with the Planning Board and the Planning Board would make the revision to the town ordinance? She suggested that this should be a separate ordinance or policy.

Mike asked if this would be considered soliciting?

David asked if a sample policy could be brought forward.

Tiffany will provide this to Maria.

Item #15- Manager's Report

-The auditing firm was here the second week of August. Linda was very generous of her time helping to gather the needed information. We hope to move forward with FY23 so that we can get started with FY24 as soon as possible.

-Blueberry Festival is coming up. This is being held August 2nd and 3rd. Renee has done a fantastic job at scheduling the events and vendors and we are all looking forward to it. Pamphlets can be found around Town. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Item #16-

Adjourn

Motion by Keith/ Second by Mike-Move to Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 6:56 P.M.

