

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting  
November 5, 2024

**(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://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 from October 1, 2024 Special Town Meeting**

Motion by Mike/Second by Phil-To approve the Minutes from October 1, 2024 Special Town Meeting.

Keith-Does it say how we voted in article 2?

Mike and Phil withdrew the motion

This has been tabled.

**Item #3- Minutes from October 1, 2024 Select Board Meeting**

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To accept the Minutes from October 1, 2024 Select Board Meeting.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #4-Minutes from October 15, 2024 Select Board Meeting**

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To accept the Minutes from October 15, 2024 Select Board Meeting.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #5- Public to speak on a non-agenda item**

None

**Item #6- Varnum Pond-RFP Approval**

Dalton Plante, Superintendent is asking for permission for Request for Proposal approval from Ecological Instincts on the Varnum Pond Grant. We have received

this grant for the last approximate 7 +/- years. This is a source water protection grant. It allows to conduct a long-term monitoring on Varnum Pond. This is a reimbursable grant for \$20,000.00. Last year we utilized the funds to not only conduct the long-term pond monitoring but also improvements on the Pine Point Road. There was an issue with uncontrolled runoff situations. The funds will carry into 2025. Pine Point Road would be a focus.

Motion by Mike/Second by Phil-Move to approve the Request for Proposal for Ecological Instincts for Varnum Pond.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

### **Item #7-Dirigo Engineering-Waterline Project Update**

Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering gave an update on the Water Transmission Line Project. (Attached)

### **Item #8-Lead & Copper Rule Revision-Dalton Plante**

There is a federal mandate coming directly from the EPA, which the Maine Drinking Water Program is enforcing. The deadline to post the notice is November 16, 2024. This mandate is across the U.S. We are considered to have "unknown" service lines, which is why we have this November 16th deadline. There are 10 services in town that have galvanized pipes and we have no way to determine if it ever had lead connected to it.

Dalton explained that these will need documentation and reviewing. A notice will be posted at the Town Office. Only notification to owners and posting at the Town Office will need to happen.

Dalton feels confident there are no issues but due to not having records of proof from 110 years ago, we will need to move forward to replace the 10 services. He estimated approximately \$24,000 in contracted excavations plus personnel time and materials. Approximately \$8,000 in K Copper to run the services. The rest would be personnel time.

Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering mentioned that there is a possible grant through the Drinking Water Program. 0% Interest and usually a 50% Grant. It will be the town's responsibility to replace the galvanized piping.

**Item #9-Police Department-FY 22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**

Chief Ethan kyes is looking for acceptance for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant which would consist of purchasing one FZ55 Panasonic laptop computer. The grant is for \$2,048 and the computer costs \$2,560.10. The remaining amount will come out of his operating budget. This will give every officer their own laptop.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To approve the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #10-Police Department-Patrick Leahy Grant 2024 Acceptance**

This is for the bulletproof vests. Two vests have already been purchased for the two new officers. This grant will reimburse the Police Department.

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To accept the Patrick Leahy Grant 2024.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #11-Police Department-Homeland Security Grant Acceptance**

Applied for was 3 access control doors for \$9,947.00 and was awarded. This went through the County EMA. We will receive a hundred cards, ID's. The purpose is to scan as one enters the building. The cards can be turned on or off when needed.

Motion by David/Second by Keith -To approve the Homeland Security Grant.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #12-Police Department-Crash lab road closure on Munson Road**

The Crash Lab will be conducting an independent study. The study will be conducted on the Munson Road. The purpose of this is to take pictures of the fatal motor crash from last year. The closure would be on Munson Road from Depot St. to Rte. 2. They would do their data conversion to see how dark it was at the time. This is a well-known company. They charged \$800 for 2 officers for 4 hours. It should take less than an hour.

Motion by Keith/Second by David-To approve the lab road closure on Munson Road.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #13-Police Department update on Tasers/Public Safety Building Work**

Chief Kyes is looking to go to RFP for the tasers and an RFQ for the work on his side of the Public Safety Building. The quote for eight tasers is \$23,000.00. For the Public Safety Building, the Police Department has approval for \$10,000.00 in the budget. They would like to hire a contractor for all three projects.

Motion by Phil/Second by Keith-To approve going for a RFP for Tasers and a RFQ for the Public Safety Building Work.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #14-MMA Risk Reduction Grant Acceptance**

The Town was awarded \$3,000 from MMA for the 365 Cloud storage for all town departments.

The quote received was \$6,000.00 and it will cost approximately \$11,000.00 to update correctly.

A lot of it is archiving old information and including email.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To accept the Risk Reduction Grant

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #15- Finalize process on 38 Weld Road**

Motion by David/Second by Mike-To take legal action to get 38 Weld Road in compliance with the Town of Wilton ordinance

Mike-

Maria

Mike-The price seems far too great for a civil case

Tiffany-This within the norm.

Mike-Other ordinances would fall under this same boat.

David-It is a lot of money, if the Town and Code Enforcement Officer is working with landowners, the goal is compliance. We need to step up to the next level.

Tiffany-If the Code enforcement Officer does everything needed.

Mike-Are we billing the individual for the cost of legal costs? I.e. Mechanics Lien (as an example). It is all about recovering the money that the Town has put into this.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

### **Item #16-Other**

Mike spoke on the General Assistance Ordinance. In light of the Governor signing an Executive order to establish the Office of the New Americans approved in August, Mike would like the Governor's Executive order posted next to the General Assistance ordinance and is looking for approval. There is a goal to bring in 75,000 people into Maine by 2030.

David suggested not posting until reviewed and unless we are required too.

Mike asked Maria if she would send the information to the Select Board members.

Tiffany agrees with David

### **Item #17-Manager's Report**

-There was a great turn out for the election. Approximately 900 +/- absentee ballots and a record number of people came to vote.

-Maria spoke with Jeffrey Reid-Sevey & Mahar Engineering in reference to the retaining wall. Maria has the plans and the estimates will be recreated so ARPA funds can be used. December 26, 2026 is the deadline. Jeffrey Reid is planning on being present at the December 3, 2024 Select Board meeting.

-IRT- (Innovative Readiness Training Application) We are ready to go out to RFQ at Kineowatha Park at the Main Lodge. Maria felt we would be ready in the summer of 2025 to move forward with the National Guard but there are things that need to be prioritized. Some of the other buildings or at least incorporate some other buildings and have an engineer come out. MMA has requested that we have an engineer come out to look at some of our buildings within the Town. We need to prioritize the Town as a whole and pause on the National Guard. We could extend the application.

We support having National Guard come out and speak and MMA will be coming also.

-The Town office will be closed next Monday in observance of Veteran's Day and November 28<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

-We are still slated to move to TRIO Payroll effective the first pay week of January. Office staff and I will be joining training sessions in the next few weeks and making sure we have data inputted into the software.

**Item #18-Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D)-Labor Contracts**

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D)-Labor Contracts

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

7:04 P.M. Out at 7:15 P.M.

Motion by David/Second by Tiffany -Move to create a supervisory position, Lieutenant for the Wilton Police Department.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

**Item #19- Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)-Personnel**

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)-Personnel.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

7:16 P.M. Out at 7:25 P.M.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-Move to payout the Town Manager's vacation time in excess of 40 hours on her anniversary for this year only.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous.

**Item #20-Adjourn**

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To Adjourn 7:26 P.M.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

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# **DIRIGO ENGINEERING**

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2 Dirigo Drive, Fairfield, Maine 04937 (207) 453-2401

November 5, 2024

## **WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN UPGRADE PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Design is at 99% complete and should be final in about a month and ready to bid. We expect bids by the end of this year.

We have all permits include DEP, Army Corp, Dept. of Conservation for Submerged lands lease, Maine DOT, and Town.

We have all permanent easements and temporary easements needed with one area of ambiguity. The access road to the pond does not appear to have been a public road at any time but the Town has used it all along to access the intake and pipeline. Lori Blaisdell of Corson & Blaisdell offered the following opinion:

“I am not finding any evidence that the North Pond Road Extension is a public access road. That being said, the Town does have a prescriptive easement over the road based on the continued use over the past 100 years. There are also some older easements of record that allow access over the road outside of the water main area.

Rands’ Orchards granted to the Wilton Water Company the “right to travel on foot or by vehicle from the Town Way leading from Wilton to Temple, westerly across other land of Rand Orchards in the course of a bulldozed road now constructed with a right to maintain the road. “

Additionally, in 1974, Maine Water company reserved an easement to maintain the pipeline and “to enter upon said strip or adjoining land of grantee at any and all times for any of the foregoing purposes.”

In my opinion the continued use and these two easements of record gets you over the North Pond Extension without need for further easements from the abutting landowners. “

So it might be a good time to get an updated easement for use of the road to access the water department facilities and the Pond.

Another challenge we are faced with now is paying for the services, approximately 20, that need to be re-routed because we are moving the pipeline from the back of some properties in the existing easement to the roadway in front of some homes, which requires relocated the services lines. USDA does not allow work on private property so you would need to get a permanent easement. Drinking Water Program does with just a temporary construction easement, but all of their provisions would apply to the entire project as it would be considered part of the larger project. So BABAA and Davis Bacon wages would apply, which do not now.

Some options would be to self-fund the work, borrow from a local bank, or borrow from the MMBB direct. If you choose to self-fund, the PUC allows for a temporary rate increase for a period (I believe) 3 years without going through the typical rate case efforts provided it is for a specific capital improvement.

The cost is estimated to be \$250,000 which includes a 10% contingency so we hope it is less than \$200,000.

The Town asked how long do we have, Jim Lord said we could tailor the Contractors to require the raw water pipeline to be done first pushing the finish water pipeline and the services to happen in year 2 of the project.

One Select Board member said lets get bids and see what that dollar value really is.

Jim Lord said the services on private property will be a separate bid item so we will know what that cost is.

Jim Lord than said he expects to attend the next few meetings to keep the board up to speed and then when we have bids to get the Boards vote to award.

Then during Construction Dirigo will likely attend meetings routinely to keep the board up to speed and informed.

**End Status Report**