

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
December 17, 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).

PUBLIC HEARING-6:00 P.M.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Article

To hold a Public Hearing on the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article. Special Town Meeting to be held on January 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Academy Hill School.

Kathleen Masterman-Village View-Questioned the 2016 Annual Report, Page 44, showing a \$375 payment for a designated TIF consultant. Does this position still exist? Have those duties been rolled into an existing position?

David explained that was when we had another TIF application and this was to make sure all processes were followed properly. It is as needed with new applications.

Nathan Hiltz spoke on an annual town meeting that took place in June 2022. That year's annual town report stated that year's payment on the ladder truck was the ninth payment out of eleven. Whereas, the following year's report called it the final payment. This was also said via camera at the annual town meeting. It was stated be it further resolve the legislative branch of town government shall demonstrate the positive value of public information with constructive participation in the future.

Public Hearing closed at 6:05 P.M.

SELECT BOARD AGENDA-6:00 P.M.

Item #1- Pledge of Allegiance

Item #8- Parks & Recreation Department-Request use of Bjorn Account Funds to pay for ice rink.

Jordan Schanck-Rec Director would like to relocate the Ice Rink to the T-Ball Field. He feels this would resolve a safety issue in regards to the way that the parking is set up. There would still be lighting access from the T-Ball field. They would install two small lights on the top of the field to keep the lighting maintained and would give a fully functional facility with more parking and ability to be able to host big events (ex-fishing derbies)

Three Quotes- 1. DIY set up with a significantly less cost but more manual labor increase. Heavier wood to be used and more materials. Cost without labor is approximately \$2,434.00

Our facility is approximately 80'x80'

2. Iron Sleek Co.-requires the purchase of plywood on the side to be able to put this together. Cost-\$5,295.00

3. Ice Easy Ice Rink-This is the priciest company. Its Lightweight and poly and one person can install in approximately 60 minutes. The 60'x80' size cost would be \$7,165.00. This comes with a one-year warranty. Jordan explained that in municipalities that he has seen where they have used this, have had them for upwards of five to six years and have not had any problems.

Jordan is requesting the Ice Easy Ice Rink and he would then name it after the Bjorn's. This would be where the funds would be coming from, the Bjorn Account. Motion by David/Second by Phil-Move to appropriate funds from the Bjorn Account for the Easy Ice rink for \$7,165.00.

Keith asked if this was run by his committee and this is their suggestion as well. Jordan-Yes, it is a time saver. It is just man hours that they were going to run into with just putting together the other stuff. It's a little more intensive than what they were really hoping for. It is a lot to store those big, heavy pieces of wood over a long period of time. The Poly stuff they can move around really easily. The hemlock cords and the other type of stuff would require physical maintenance and a lot of materials and labor to be done.

Mike-Do you have any organized activities such as hockey?

Jordan-No, not yet. Jordan is working on some clinics and hockey programs. Tiffany asked if other towns have used this?

Jordan-There's a few within the State or municipalities that are going with cold rinks. So, it is long term. They are setting refrigeration units and cement. No information was given in regards to the lifespan. It is a newer company. It is all plastic and they go out to a one-year warranty on all of their materials that you can purchase individually too. He has talked to a lot of companies that were running five to ten years on most of their components without seeing any problems.

Maria questioned the original quote that was given to her for Easy Ice for \$11,110.00. That was for 80', so is it a different size?

Jordan explained that yes, this is for a 60'x80'.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #2-Minutes from December 3, 2024 Meeting

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Approve the Select Board Minutes from December 3, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #3-Minutes from December 9, 2024 Special Select Board Meeting

Motion by David/Second by Phil-To Approve the Special Select Board Minutes from December 9, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 4-1 Abstain (Mike)

Item #4-Public to speak on a non-agenda item

Nathan Hiltz-A few meetings ago Nathan advocated for more information to be included in the annual report. In hindsight, he realized that his comment did not communicate his point as well as he expected. Each of the seats on the Select Board is designated a number, one through five in a ten-year string of annual reports ending back in 2007. The number for each seat was printed along side the name of the corresponding board member. A couple of arguments in favor of reinstating this practice is first, the historical element. It will make it easier for future Wilton researchers. Second is the benefit for people in the present. The habit of putting the names into public record each year will make it easier to keep on top of the changes, which reduces the likelihood of a mistake being made.

Also, making it clear which seat which incumbent holds would discourage any attempt at what Nathan will refer to as electoral gamesmanship. There could be arguments about resetting this practice.

Item #5-Waterline Project Update

Maria explained that the Final plan was submitted to USDA but have not received the final USDA approval. We have not heard back as of today.

David would like to be informed when we do go out to bid.

Maria-When we receive the final plans back from USDA, we will be going out to bid.

David suggested putting the updated information in the Manager's Report.

Item #6- Public Works Grader

John Masse-Highway Foreman-There were no bids that were received. He would like to go out to bid if another becomes available.

As part of John's Quarterly report, one of the trucks lost a turbo. It is under warranty so it did not cost anything. The loader lost a high-pressure fuel pump. \$15,000.00 to get that repaired and running again. The sidewalk gearbox is broken for the blower. John is trying to work on getting a new gearbox to make the snowblower work again. The loader at the transfer station is having an issue with the reverse every now and then. John does not have that figured out quite yet.

Item #7-MDOT Bridge Replacement Pond Road Agreement

The Town received a letter from George McDougall from Maine Department of Transportation asking the Town to review the Bridge Replacement Pond Road Agreement. The agreement states that Wilton agrees a construction overlimit permit will be issued to the Contractor for the Pond Road bridge replacement. It also states that the municipality may require a bond from the contractor at the time of issuing the permit and that MDOT will help us with that process if we choose to do that, however it is not a common practice according to the State and it is not required to finalize at this time. Maria recommends approving the agreement for the State.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-Move to Approve and sign the agreement for the State-MDOT Bridge Replacement Pond Road Agreement.

Mike recommends a bond.

Maria explained that it would be approximately \$14,000.00 per mile. It is about two miles across. There is only \$20,000.00.

It was requested to restate the motion with bonding.

Motion by David/Second by Keith-Move to Approve and sign the agreement for the State-MDOT Bridge Replacement Pond Road Agreement with bonding.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item#9-Approval for Budget Schedule for FY2025-2026 planning

(Attachment)

Maria has scheduled meetings with the Department Heads.

Motion by David/Second by Mike-Move to Approve the Budget Schedule (which is subject to change)

There was a question on the town election unless the state has set a date. We have not and we have not heard a final date for the State Election for June and there is not a confirmed date for Town Meeting.

David asked that when working with the Department Heads for review, he has concerns on the State Revenue Sharing. The State budget shortfall is at 1.3 billion, so that will impact everything. He stated that we need to look at the State budget as we look at our own budget to minimize.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #10-Request for early office closure on New Year's Eve-12/31/2024 at 1:00P.M.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Mike-To Approve the Request for early office closure on New Year's Eve-12/31/2024 at 1:00P.M.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #11-Other

David-ATV Discussion-There was an ATV discussion on the 10th. A review of this past year's issues. He stated pretty darn positive. David asked the Town Manger to bring to them what other roads would like to be open. (Based on the Facebook Survey). David would like to see the list.

Item #12-Manager's Report

-Maria received a follow up from Amanda Simoneau regarding the request from Franklin County EMA. She had reached out to the County Administrator who said they will address this with the new commissioners when they take office in January. They heard back from a lot of communities either that they were not going to support or that they would like the EMA to come to a Select Board meeting to discuss. They will be asking to fund this at the County level, but will let us know once they have more information.

-Maria received a resignation letter from Heather Harris making her last official day January 2. We are proud of what Heather has accomplished during her time here at the Town Office and can not wait to hear what she will accomplish throughout her career. Thank you, Heather, for your service at the Town of Wilton.

-The Planning Board Meeting originally scheduled for December 19th has been cancelled. The Planning Board will resume their regularly scheduled meetings starting January 2, 2025.

-A reminder that the town office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday December 25 for Christmas. We will be closing at 1:00 P.M. on December 31 and closed on Wednesday January 1, 2025.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Item #13-Adjourn

Motion by David/Second by Keith-To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous 6:30 P.M.

Budget Process for 2025-2026 Budget – Town of Wilton

Feb. 1 to Feb 28, 2025 – Manager meet with individual Town Departments to receive their budgets

Monday, March 10, 2025 – Select Board and Finance Committee to receive proposed budgets

Monday, March 17, 2025 – 6:00 PM – Select Board and Finance Committee to meet Non-Profit organizations
****Maine Health (NorthStar) ?**

Monday, March 31, 2025– 6:00 PM – Select Board and Finance Committee to meet with Town Department Heads

Monday, April 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM - Finance Committee and Selectboard – vote on budget

Monday, April 28, 2025 – 6:00 PM - Final vote on Warrant by Selectboard.

Town Elections – Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Town Meeting – Monday, June 16, 2025