

TOWN OF WILTON
February 18, 2025
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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

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

Item # 1- Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2- Minutes from the February 4, 2025 Select Board Meeting.

Motion by David/Second by Mike- To approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2025.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

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

-Nathan Hiltz spoke on how the town properly notices the time of select board meetings, usually at six o'clock. It's on the Daily Bulldog website, but it has not been printed on the last 3 agendas which is a deviation from the past. Nathan also spoke on the procedure of electing a moderator at a special town meeting. Nathan stated two quotes from the seventh edition of the Maine Moderator's manual published in 2021. Nathan stated page two says "the moderator is elected by the town meeting" and on page six it says "The clerk may wish to distribute ballots only to those few who actually request them. Rather than insist that all voters take a ballot". Nathan asked "What procedure does Wilton use to allow members of the town meeting to request ballots? Is the clerk prepared to provide ballots for any number of requests? Are voters allowed to supply their own ballots? Does the timing and seating configuration allow any opportunity for the paper ballot to be physically exchanged?" Nathan suggested if the clerk were to establish a routine of announcing to the room an opportunity for any voters to submit a ballot they provided, this would create no extra time, no extra paper, and no room for doubt about the procedure after the fact.

Item #4- Blueberry Festival Theme

Maria stated the Blueberry Festival Committee met and the recommendation for this year's festival is "The Rocking Eighties". The Blueberry Festival Committee wanted to bring that forth to the board and that it is the plan to move forward with. Renee is also here to speak.

David asked how the theme fits into blueberries, and he heard that question asked regularly.

Renee said blueberries are incorporated however they can be throughout the festival, if we did the theme of blueberries every year, it would get very boring.

Item #5- Blueberry Festival Road Closures

Maria stated there has been no change since last year.

Mike asked if Wilton had a 10k last year or if it was just a 5k and a 1 mile for the young kids. Renee confirmed there was a 10k. Mike asked if the sequential routes around the opposite sides of the lake all were done at the same time and if there were problems with closing everything down. Renee said there were no problems. Tiffany asked to have the map blown up for a visual and stated it was basically the same as last year's.

Motion by Keith /Second by Mike- To accept the Blueberry Festival Road Closures

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #6, 7, & 8- Renewal of Earth Keeper, Honeycomb Farm, and Cannatopia Licenses

Tiffany suggested the renewal of Earth Keeper license, the renewal of Honeycomb Farm license, and the renewal of Cannatopia license all at once.

Motion by David/ Second by Keith- To renew all three licenses.

David asked if Cannatopia had paid all taxes and fees

Maria states all fees and taxes have been paid for all three licenses.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #9- CMP Pole Location Form 4501

Maria stated this application for pole location or underground location requires signatures from the Selectboard. For clarification, it's for Tobin Flat Road. Since it is a town road it requires town Selectboard signatures.

Motion by David/Second by Keith- To accept the CMP Pole Location.

Tiffany moved to discussion. Mike questioned if it was a commercial array or just private. Gary Judkins responded it is commercial.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #10- Boston Cane Nomination Process

Maria stated it has been recommended to begin the nomination process for the Boston Cane. Per our policy, the board must notify the nomination process has begun. The nominations are due back on March 13,2025, at 5 pm.

Motion by David/Second by Phil- To notify the Boston Cane Nomination Process has begun.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #11- Finance Committee Appointments

Motion by David/ Second by Mike- To discuss both applications.

a.) Christian Waller b.) Cindy Cummings

Mike asked how many people are typically on the board. He stated right now, we have 4 and have 2 applicants.

Maria recommended an odd number and no more than five.

Mike stated he didn't see the problem with six because the more input on the budget committee the better.

Keith suggested having one as an alternate. Five voting members and one alternate.

Motioned by David/ Seconded by Mike- Moved to amend one member and one alternate.

Tiffany asked who was the primary and who was the alternate.

David suggested a simple way to do it is who has been the resident the longest and then the other be the alternate. Christian Waller has been a Wilton resident for two years and Cindy Cummings has been a Wilton resident for a year and nine months.

Phil asked if this was being proposed as a standard operating procedure or just for this one-time nomination. The board agreed it was a one-time deal. The alternate can attend the meetings as a non-voting member.

Amendment Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Amendment in Motion Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #12- Notification/Alert System Discussion

Maria, a few of the department heads, and other surrounding towns went to training with Franklin County Regarding their IPAWS. IPAWS is still working with the Maine Emergency Management Agency on implementing IPAWS. They submitted IPAWS communications plans for them to review. They need to complete training to be a certified message handler and file an application with the FCC. They are still waiting for final approval for that process. This notification would be county level. What it would be able to notify us is still questionable.

Tiffany states IPAWS stands for Integrated Public Alert Warning System. IPAWS said they could do geo-located emergency messages. Tiffany suggested considering during budget season to get a specific sign up for constant contact so that a resident can choose which notifications to sign up for. Tiffany questioned if the residents would want to expend for a new system.

Item #13- Other

Phil asked if the board wanted the town manager to look into an actual information system. Phil mentioned using a similar system to the school to put out notifications. He suggested at least SMS for notifications that residents can sign up for. Tiffany and Maria are going to look into notification systems.

David stated the system the school uses costs thousands. It is up to the taxpayers whether a new system would be a separate warrant article or included inside the budget. This would allow the taxpayers to voice if they would like to be better notified.

Nathan Hiltz suggested the comprehensive planning committee run a survey where they ask residents how much they want and how much they care about notifications.

Item #14- Managers Report

(See Attached Report)

Maria states nomination papers for Selectboard seat #3, Selectboard seat #4, and an RSU seat will be available at the town office beginning March 3, 2025. Completed papers must be returned to the town office by April 11, 2025.

As of February 7th, the waterline project has begun being advertised. Bid openings are set for March 5, 2025.

Highway foreman John Masse noted that the posted road signs will be placed soon. These signs will be put up when the daytime temperatures stay above freezing for several days, which is expected within the next couple of weeks.

Item #15- 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 6:22 P.M. Out at 6:31 P.M.

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item#16- Action following Executive Session, if applicable

No action

Item #17- Adjourn

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany- To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous 6:31 P.M.

February 18, 2025

1. Other Items:

a.

2. Town Manager's Report:

- a. Nomination papers for Select Board Seat #3, Select Board Seat #4, and an RSU #9 seat will be available at the Town Office beginning March 3rd. Completed papers must be returned to the Town Office by April 11th.
- b. Waterline Project – As of February 7th, we began advertising the project. Dalton sat in to a pre-bid meeting today with Aaron Dyer from Dirigo Engineers, along with a handful of interested contractors. The Bid openings are scheduled for March 5th – which will involve myself, Dalton, Jim, and an additional member to record the bids.
- c. John Masse, Highway Foreman, noted that Posted Road signs will be placed soon. These signs are put up when daytime temperatures stay above freezing for several days, which is expected within the next couple of weeks. John coordinates with surrounding towns to ensure consistency in road postings. The notice will also be shared on the town website, the sign out front of the Town Office, and the Town's Facebook page. The signs will remain up until conditions allow for their removal, but no later than May 15th.
- d.