

**TOWN OF WILTON**  
**March 18, 2025**  
**SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

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

**(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://www.mtbluetv.org))**

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**Item # 1- Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item #2- Minutes from the March 4, 2025 Select Board Meeting**

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

Vote: 3-1(Abstain-Tiffany)-1 (Absent- Mike)

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

Nick Santora- Asked why the American flag isn't hanging out a lot.

Maria stated during the winter months because of the snowbanks and how it is plowed, the flag is presented on the front of the building rather than the pole during the winter months.

**Item #4- Waterline Project Update- Jim Lord, Dirigo Engineering**

Jim prepared and summarized a recommendation for the award. Jim stated there were five bids from very competitive contractors. Pratt and Sons were the lowest bid at \$7,703,800. Dirigo Engineering's most recent estimate in 2024 was 8.9 million and change. When estimating a project there are two things considered. Past performance jobs and funding fears. Jim stated this is one of the longest Waterline projects that's been bid in the State of Maine in a very long time. Pratt and Sons have been in business since 1988. Dirigo Engineering has done three projects with them in the last ten years, two being waterline projects. Two of the projects went well. Jim stated the storm drain job in Madison did not go as well so, it was decided to contact references. Pratt and Sons are finishing up a water main extension project at Great Salt Bay Sanitary District. Jim stated Scott Abbotoni, the general manager, had nothing but great things to say about them. Willaim Haskell from the City of Biddeford also spoke very highly of Pratt and Sons. Scott Bickford at MDOT would have no hesitation in awarding future work to Pratt and Sons. Pratt and Sons are above average in their safety rating determined by an experience modification rate. They were at 0.86 over the last three-year average. Dirigo Engineering recommends Pratt and Son's Incorporated.

Tiffany asked Jim to read off the other bids for the record.

Jim stated Ranger Construction was at \$8,575,853. Sergeant Corporation was \$9,671,260. Jordan Excavation was \$9,988,500. Gordon Contracting was \$10,680,697. Jim stated that based on the budget, there would be 1.6 million dollars available contingency as we start this project.

David asked how much contingency is in the bid contract.

Jim stated a contingency isn't put in the contract but you're funding you have 20%.

David asked if there was an allowance for ledge.

Jim stated yes, ledge probes were done throughout most of the project. Probes were done every 50 feet, and it is estimated that there are 1,400 cubic yards of trench ledge. Pratt and Sons unit price for ledge is \$450 a cubic yard. Ranger Construction was \$374 for a cubic yard. Sergeants Corporation was \$400 a cubic yard. Jordan Excavation was \$400 a cubic yard. Gordan Contracting was \$300 a cubic yard.

#### **Item #5- WASW Bid Acceptance**

Motion by David/Second by Phil- to award bid for the water transmission main replacement project to Pratt and Sons.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

Jim asked about the conversation regarding Main Street.

Maria stated yes, a discussion regarding whether the board is ready to move forward or want to gather more information.

Jim stated during the original study weakness along Main Street was identified. There is an undersized pipe. There is four-inch, six-inch, and a bottleneck for a flow out to East Wilton. It was identified in the report accepted by the USDA. Jim stated that all the money that's going to be left over is grant money because the way the USDA works is the loan money is used first. Any of that money can be spent on stretch goals. A grant of \$459,000 from the drinking water program was also received. Jim has tallied up all the design fees, ledge probe fees, legal fees, and everything else that has gone into the project at this point, and it totals \$348,949.34. Meaning about \$110,000 of available grant money that can go towards design and permitting work. Jim states there is not enough grant money left to build it all, however, there is enough to design it all. When Pratt and Sons are done, whatever money is left can be applied and go out to bid for Main Street and the design will be ready.

David asked what the greatest priority was, Main Street or East Wilton?

Dalton Plante states the bottleneck system is at the bottom of Weld Rd and Main St intersection. Everything that loops in from the monument up toward that intersection is one size. Weld Road is smaller and runs out behind the Academy and runs from the sewage plant on Davis Court to Maxwell Road.

Jim states that when the reservoir was built, it was extended with a 12-inch pipe, knowing that eventually the rest would need to be bigger. If proceeding with the money that the drinking water program granted for design and permitting, it must be fully spent and drawn down by June 30,2025 this year or it will be lost.

Maria states it's needed to decide on what to do or if it needs to be closed.

David asked if the money would cover the cost of design and engineering.

Jim stated there will be \$110,000 left and he quoted Maria \$100,000 to design and \$10,000 for preliminary. The only thing needed for preliminary is environmental review.

Motion by David/Second by Keith- to use the remainder of the drinking water grant to engineer and design the Main Street water line.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

Nick Santora asked if these pipes would work 20 years down the road.

Jim states yes, the pipes will be a high-density polyethylene so there will be no impact of corrosive soils.

## **Item #6- Department Head Reports**

### **Ethan Kyes, Police Chief**

Wilton Chief, Ethan Kyes spoke about a new push by the state in defense attorneys where the state is running out of defense attorneys to represent defendants and people in jail. Beginning in April, if a defendant doesn't have a defense attorney within 14 days of being incarcerated, they are going to release them. Chief Kyes states if it is an offence such as murder, they will hold them. If it's some type of violent crime, they will be released after 14 days when they should be in jail. Chief Kyes also stated another thing the state has mentioned is if the defendant doesn't have a defense attorney within 45 days, they are going to drop the charges all together. Chief Kyes mentioned he has read an article where there is over 100 people who have been incarcerated for over a year and do not have a defense attorney. It leaves the chance of bad people being released into the community. At the 45 days mark the individual would have to be recharged, creating a lot more work for the department.

Chief Kyes states the department has two openings. There has been \$3,500 spent on advertising such as Indeed, Sun Journal, Facebook, MMA, and Daily Bulldog. With that, one qualified applicant was found and has a conditional offer out to the individual. The last piece needed is a psychological examination which is scheduled for March 28, 2025. Once that is completed, she will be sent to phase 2 in May. Chief Kyes stated they are down a secretary position but will be putting up a post to let community members know they will get to the door as soon as possible for walk ins. There is one officer on paternity leave and will return second week of April.

Chief Kyes states they have been working with Pro Suites through Central Square for the new computer program hoping to go live in July. The department is going from a 2000 program to a 2025 program, and it will offer a lot more services and tracking. The whole CAD system can be on phones and laptops. The department is in a testing phase making sure everything works. An excel sheet of around 300 different things is being used to make sure it works in the system. In April, training on the new system and applications will begin. Pro Suites Central Square will do six weeks of training. The six weeks will be spaced out between officers.

Chief Kyes stated the department had been working 24-hour shifts and it had been working very well. It helped cover a medical leave and two paternity leaves. It saved substantially on overtime. Five Stone Garden Details have been done in the last couple of weeks with one leading to the detaining of an individual for Border Patrol that already has a deportation order from a judge.

Chief Kyes stated the body cameras are also being tested. Three quotes from three different companies have been received. Axons quote, which are currently being carried, was \$56,000. LensLock was \$40,000. Officers are currently testing LensLock and are happy with them. The third quote was from GTech. The department is hoping they will let them do a trial eventually.

Chief Kyes states they are working on policy and reviewing policies to sign off on. Between 40 and 50 policies will need to be signed off within the next couple of months.

Chief Kyes states the Sheriff's Office had said if the Wilton Police Department was going to continue to ask them for help, they could potentially charge for covering shifts. Numbers have not been discussed.

Tiffany asked who told them this.

Chief Kyes stated Lieutenant Dave Radcliffe.

Maria added she wasn't sure if the timing of the shifts would make a difference and clarification on the costs would be helpful.

Chief Kyes stated he emailed and has not received an answer yet.

David would like to know the legality of that. Tiffany mentioned she will talk to one or more county commissioners about it.

Chief Kyes mentioned they reached out to MMA and the Attorney General's office, and they gave a broad response that did not answer the question.

### **Dalton Plante, Water/Sewer Superintendent**

Dalton stated winter was gracious to them. There were 2 significant water main breaks despite the strange year it had been with the frost.

Dalton stated the department has continued working on the GIS system and digitizing its swing tie cards and integrating them into GIS. When summer comes, efforts to maximize the data will take place including onsite photographs and making efforts to integrate pump station data logs and maintenance logs.

Hunter Kissam, a new operator, has recently acquired his water distribution operator's license. Department operators began the process of moving the water inventories from Doak Street to temporary storage. This is being done to remove all useful materials from the pump house that will be demolished as part of the water line project.

Dalton states as a wintertime project, the department has been working on a rehabilitation project on one of the three media filters at the water plant. This should allow more efficient solids removal, less media loss, better air scoring and backwashing, improve filter lifespan, and hopefully a mild reduction in chemical usage. Dalton states this will hopefully cause some cost reduction from the improved efficiency.

Dalton stated as a moment of levity, everything Jim said. There's been a lot of moves the past couple of weeks as far as getting bids in and that is exciting.

Tiffany asked if any thought had been given into the Water Department's PLC system since it is a few years old.

Dalton stated he is currently in the process of getting ahold of the SCADA technician because there are some modifications needed to be made during the project to accommodate new pumps going in. He stated when the technician was in, he was going to get a ballpark for what the best steps would be to upgrade the PLC itself.

### **Item #7- Approval of Water Department Budget**

Dalton went over the major bullet points of what changed in the budget.

620-3- Plant Maintenance. Line increased to allow refurbishing internal piping and actuators.

620-5- Major Meter Replacement project.

-Dalton stated they are on the final phases of the current software and radio account equipment. In the upcoming year, an effort to move over to a new technology will be made. Potentially looking at ultrasonic meters. The goal would be to purchase a hundred units to knock out 10% of the system in the upcoming year.

620-6- Project Line on Tyler Street.

-Dalton stated they are looking to prepurchase some materials for Tyler Street. There will have to be temporary water across the road and that will involve opening the road. The only contending factor is DOT.

634-8- Forester Time to Harvest.

-Property is due for harvest. Dalton stated the intended use for that money would be used to have a forester go out and mark all the trees for clearing and harvesting at some point this year.

635-5- Modifications made to better provide for accurate usage of contractual lines

-Reduced to only use line for contractual work instead of contractual work and materials.

650-8- Major reduction in vehicle line.

-Dalton stated significant decrease due to not going out to bid for a new truck like last year. It is still higher than in previous years to purchase the 50 horsepower New Holland tractor from the Sewer Department.

Tiffany asked about the ultrasonic meters and if they were time sensitive or dopplers.

Dalton stated he was looking at ones through Orion meter but due to the cost it will likely be something that will go out to bid. The meter fires an ultrasonic signal and transduces the amount of water that's in it. The ultrasonic meters have a 20-year replacement time.

David asked if the mechanical meters can be left while the ultrasonic meters are replaced.

Dalton stated the ultrasonic meters replace the entire mechanical meter. He also stated there isn't the best record of when the meters were installed, so this would allow inventory to start being tracked in phases. The ultrasonic meters use a battery that is replaceable if it dies instead of replacing the whole unit.

Motioned by David/Second by Keith – to approve the Water Department budget FY26.

Maria stated that in preparing the budget it was noted the department hasn't been budgeting for depreciation. Every year the transaction is happening and it's impacting the depreciation line. Maria states the Water/Sewer Department should be budgeting for depreciation. There has been a lot of discussion on how to implement this change without having such an impact to the rate payers. Maria states she is looking for feedback.

Dalton states the Water Department was \$110,000 and the Sewer Department was \$433,000.

David recommends a five-year approach to build it up each year. It will impact people, but a five-year approach can minimize the impact.

Dalton stated to make up the \$110,000 depreciation, a 15.3% increase would need to happen.

Maria states the auditors have been asked to assist in a Rate Case.

Dalton states to cover debts at the end of this project, the department will need \$338,000 annual payment which is a 46.8% rate increase for water. If depreciation and the appropriate rate increases to cover the project, it will be a 62.1% rate increase based on current revenues. Dalton states a 1.5% increase is allowed to do in house yearly without a wider case study.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

#### **Item #8- Approval of Sewer Department Budget**

Dalton stated there was a modification to what was sent out, there's \$27,652 in budgetary excess that he would like to allot into the budget. Modification would be for line 510-4 to allocate \$6,387, bringing it to \$16,000. The next modification would be under line 540-7 allocating the remaining \$21,265 to the pump station budget. This line would cover all the generator buildings in town. Dalton states from a capital improvement standpoint, it would be beneficial to try and acquire new generators. It would also cover some new pumps, control panels, and alarm systems.

510-3- Adjusted for contractual work

- Raised to \$19,000 due to spending around \$19,000 in 2024.

510-4- Increase to allow for purchase of sewer inspection camera

515-4- Adjusted to accommodate anticipated maintenance work

540-7- pump station budget increased to accommodate upgrades required by DEP and potential generator replacement. Dalton proposed excess revenues will likely be moved with a motion at the end of 2025 to move into a restricted fund for replacement of generators.

Motion by David/Second by Phil – to approve the FY 26 Sewer Department Budget as presented.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

Maria asked for clarification if the plan for depreciation is for both departments.

David shook his head yes.

#### **Item #9- Approval of Town Meeting Date- June 16, 2025- Academy Hill School 6:00 PM**

Motion by David/Second by Phil- to approve the town meeting date, June 16, 2025, at Academy Hill School 6:00 PM.

Tiffany states it has been confirmed.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

### **Item #10- RSU #9 Public Hearing and Special Vote Discussion**

David states there is no justification for asking for a delay in the vote from our end as long as the warrants are signed, and it's posted in a timely manner.

Tiffany states the presentation was public information and it's going to the voters, so let the voters vote.

### **Item #11- Boston Cane- Select Board to Award**

Maria stated nominations were due back March 13, 2025. We received five nominations and from our records, it shows Barbara Black is the oldest resident of the people who were nominated.

Motion by David/Second by Keith- to award the Wilton Boston Cane to Barbara Black.

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

### **Item #12- Franklin County Committee Vacancies**

Tiffany states the caucus for the budget committee vacancies will be held on March 26, 2025, 5:00 PM in the Franklin County Superior Courtroom 140 Main Street, Farmington. Tiffany has served for several years and offered if anyone else on the Selectboard would like to go. Tiffany states she is willing to show up at the caucus if the board would vote her in.

Keith stated it would be interesting to go and see how it works with the five. Keith stated he received an email from Nate that explained the possibility of Farmington voting on two of them.

Maria stated each commissioner district has two permanent members. Members serve three-year terms. One rotating member who serves a one-year term selected in 2025 by commissioner district one, selected in 2026 by district 2, selected in 2027 by district 3, selected in 2028 by district 4, selected in 2029 by district 5, and selected in 2030 by succeeding years in the same order as the five years in this paragraph.

Keith states it still could mean Wilton does not have representation.

Tiffany states it would be nice to make sure Wilton has representation there.

### **Item # 13- Next Select Board Meetings**

-March 31, 2025- Joint meeting with Finance Committee-6:00 PM

-April 1, 2025- 6:00 PM

-April 14, 2025- Joint meeting with the Finance Committee-6:00 PM

-April 15, 2025- 6:00 PM

**Item #14- Other**

None

**Item #15- Manager's report**

Nomination papers for selectboard seat number three, selectboard seat number four, and an RSU 9 seat are available at the town office. Completed papers must be returned to the town office by April 11, 2025.

Roads are posted here in Wilton. Signs are put up when the daytime temperatures stay above freezing for several days. We are currently seeing this weather and the signs will remain up until conditions allow for the removal, no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Item #16- Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) – Labor Contracts**

Motion by David/Second by Keith- to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) – Labor Contracts. 7:13 PM Out 7:35 PM

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

**Item #17- Action following Executive Session, if applicable**

Motion by David/Second by Phil- to authorize Maria to sign proposed sidebar agreement with Teamsters.

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

Motion by David/Second by Phil- to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel 7:36 PM Out 8:09 PM

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)

**Item #19- Action following Executive Session, if applicable**

None

**Item #20- Adjourn**

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil- to Adjourn

Vote: 4-1 Absent (Mike Wells)