

TOWN OF WILTON
April 1, 2025
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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

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

Item #1 Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2 Minutes from the March 17, 2025, Select Board Meeting

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany- to approve minutes from the March 17, 2025, Select Board meeting.

Vote: 5-0

Item #3 Minutes from the March 18, 2025, Select Board Meeting

Motion by Phil/Second by David- to approve minutes from the March 18, 2025, Select Board Meeting.

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

Nathan Hiltz stated there was a disagreement at the county commissioner's meeting and was hoping to be taken up under other business to explain the documents that he would like to argue for this disagreement. Nathan states "it would be better for people to go to that meeting prepared instead of people showing up for the first time introduced to the different sides of the argument." Nate encouraged more information to be included in the annual town report. He states the 1986 report includes the warrant that was used for the annual town meeting held March of 1987. Article seven of that warrant reads as follows "To see if the town will vote to have published in the town report commencing next year and continuing thereafter, the annual salaries of all town employees both full and part time. After this vote the requested information appeared, and the next 34 report string extended to the year 2021. This information was not however printed in the two most recent annual reports. Nathan states if there is a legal reason why this information cannot be included in the reports, the town should explain why this vote can no longer be followed. Nathan states the selectboard will be presented with the zoning ordinance revision for consideration on the annual town meeting warrant. According to the planning board, it will be up to the selectboard to decide whether the entire revision will be presented as a single warrant or whether it gets broken into multiple smaller articles. Nathan states "here is my argument in favor of using multiple articles. Since 2000 there have been six annual town meeting warrants that included more than five zoning changes. Having a handful of articles is not all that uncommon. The highest amount in that span was 2005 when there were 10 zoning amendments on a single warrant. If ever there was a year that was worthy of having numerous amendments, this is the year since this is the complete revision. One benefit of breaking it out into multiple articles is to keep the discussion more organized. If it were all in one article, then comments on any part of the zoning ordinance would be germane to a single motion." Nathan states breaking the articles

out into sections would increase the chance that one comment related to the previous one, which keeps the discussion more focused. Nathan mentions how this could affect voting in the articles. Ordinances cannot be amended on the town meeting floor, all voters can do is vote the whole thing up or down.

Tiffany stated Maria and herself did talk about the salaries not being published in the book. It will be published in the town report this year.

Tiffany asked Nathan if he would like to speak at this time in the public comment section.

Nathan states “Public Laws of 2023 chapter 262 for LD 1350. Which describes how the new county budget is supposed to work. It has five sections. So, if you look there are five sections to this public law section 1,2,3,4,5. We’re going to talk about how these sections are different. The key here that we're looking at is section four which is the initial terms. This talks about when the budget committee was first started. These terms were supposed to be staggered instead of every district getting the same length terms. Some got ones, two, threes, so that they would all be reelected at different times. So, we're going to keep this up. Sections 873 and 874 of Title 30 A. In sections 873 and 874, this language of section four doesn't appear. You can look through all those pages and you wonder where section four is? Right? And because it's not appearing in statute, there are some, and I've encountered them over the last week that say we don't need to stagger the terms that that law is out, and it gets harder to explain unless people are willing to look at the documents that I'm going to present here.” Nathan asks to have the definition of unallocated pulled up.

Nathan states the definition of public laws includes a reference on unallocated language. He stated, “it says some portions of public laws are not codified in the MRSA appropriation sections, transition clauses, and some other provisions are unallocated.” Nathan referenced the Maine Legislative Drafting Manual “temporary provisions of a public law bill or housekeeping provision are usually not allocated to the statutes but are drafted as unallocated law in place at the end of the bill such as transitions provisions, retroactivity clauses, appropriations and allocation sections, effect date sections and emergency clause. An unallocated provision of the law is published in the laws of the State of Maine but is not included in Maine revised statutes.”

Nathan stated “it is not underlined because it is not allocated in MRSA. It has a short-term limited duration and has force of law. Unallocated language is the law, even though it’s not in statute. Nathan referenced back to sections 1,2,3,4, and five. He states “Section one explains how it is being placed in a piece of statute. See how it says at the top a certain piece of statue being amended. Then you see in section one the underlying language because that underlying language is becoming statute. Likewise, in section two of this bill, it points out which piece of statute is being placed in and there's underlying language under section two. And then we get to sections three, four, and five. It doesn't mention it being placed into any point in statute. And there's no underlying language in sections three, four, and five. Why? Because they're temporary provisions that are unallocated language, but they're still the law. And section five says when they go into effect, according to section five, section four went into effect November 5th, 2024, which meant starting November 5th, 2024. The law is that the initial budget committee shall have the staggered terms. It should have used the law unallocated language to stagger those terms but because people didn’t see it in statute, they thought it didn’t apply, and they instead elected for three years.

Nathan states if this works and is agreed with, he proposed to go to another selectboard before the first budget committee meeting so they are prepared for what they could be told. Nathan states right now, the budget caucus did not follow the law.

Tiffany states she will have to go through and process this information first.

Item #5 Yearly Appointments

- a. Maria Greely - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Road Commissioner, General Assistance Administrator, Town Manager**
- b. Katharine Johnston - Finance and Human Resources Director**
- c. Madison Masse - Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters**
- d. Sonny Dunham - Fire Chief**
- e. Kyle Ellis - Deputy Fire Chief**
- f. Mike Lilley - Deputy Fire Chief**
- g. Ethan Kyes - Police Chief**
- h. Brian Lynch - Lieutenant**
- i. Christa Powers - Animal Control Officer**
- j. Kent Wiles - Cemetery Sexton**
- k. Paul Binette - Assessor**

Motion by David/ Second by Mike- to approve the appointment list as presented for FY25.

David recalls a conversation a year or two ago and there was discussion of the number of deputy fire chiefs.

Tiffany suggests going back and researching whether anything was formalized or not.

Item #6 Selectboard Members appointment to committees

- a. Parks & Recreation Committee- Keith Swett**
- b. Recycling Committee- David Leavitt**
- c. Downtown Committee- David Leavitt**
- d. Road Committee- Phil Hilton**
- e. Cemetery Committee- Tiffany Maiuri**
- f. Cannabis Committee- Mike Wells**
- g. Blueberry Festival Committee- Phil Hilton**
- h. Comprehensive Plan Committee- Keith Swett**
- i. Ordinance Committee- Mike Wells**
- j. Police Advisory Committee- Tiffany Maiuri**
- k. Events Committee- Tiffany Maiuri**

Motion by Keith/ second by David- as read to selectboard member appointment to committees for FY25.

Vote 5-0

Item # 7. Grader Bid Opening

John stated the current grader is 39 years old and there was one that became available that is 17 years old. It was put out to bid, the bid received was \$55,000 They will give \$12,500 for a trade

in. For \$42,500 the almost 40-year-old grader can be replaced with the 17-year-old grader. It has around 7,500 hundred hours. John states a new grader costs around \$410,000.

Mike asked how many miles a year is usually put on.

John states anywhere from 300 to 500 a year.

Motion by David/ Seconded by Mike- Grader as presented.

David asked if there was money in the capital account for that.

John and Maria both responded yes.

David asked how much money was in the Capital equipment account.

Maria states there is \$402,875.

John states there is still a new truck to pay for out of that account.

Keith asked how the grader fit into the list of needs as far as the now purchase.

John states the original plan was to trade it in 2015, so it has already been put off 10 years. The opportunity came up and John states he thinks it's a good idea to take the opportunity.

Vote: 5-0

John states garage doors, paving, and waste hauling are going to go out to bid soon.

Item # 8. Amendment to Dirigo Engineering Agreement

Maria stated the first one was dated March 12th. The amendment is for additional services provided including the evaluation of groundwater option during preliminary phase. Additional permitting efforts due to changes in circumstances and permit requirements, additional easement support design and permitting of septic system for treatment plant, additional design efforts improve the backwash disposal system and setting pond functionality. These additional services total \$23,406.75 and it also includes adjustments to the hourly rates for things such as geologists, senior process engineer, etc.

Amendment number four is to add engineering services for Main Street water main replacement from Weld Road to Masterman Avenue as shown in figure one of the documents. This includes completing an environmental review in accordance with the funding agency's requirements and design. The water replacement design includes topographic survey, developing plans, profile drawings, as well as construction details, technical specifications and preparing contract documents as part of the design. Also helped the town obtain bids for ledge probes and to have the ledge probes completed. Dirigo will be present during the ledge probes to record the information, but our costs do not include the cost of the alleged probe contractor. Contract documents include bidding documents, contracts, general and special provisions, technical specifications, a fee for that environmental review is \$3,000 and design is \$95,000.

Maria states her request is a motion to approve amendment number three and amendment number four and authorize me to sign both documents.

Motion by David/Second by Phil– to sign amendments to Dirigo engineering number 3 and number 4

David states I believe number four will fall within grant money and asked what the cost of number three was.

Mike states \$23,406.

Vote: 5-0

Item # 9. Authorization for Town Manager to execute documents related to Waterline Project

Motion by David/Second by Keith- to Authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary, regulatory administrative documents related to the water line projects including those required by the project engineer and agencies such as the USDA on behalf of the town.

Vote: 5-0

Item # 10. Review and approval of FY 2025-2026 Wages

Maria stated proposal for FY26 non-union employee wages is 4%.

Motion by David/Second by Tiffany- to approve FY26 Wages.

Vote: 4-1 Passes

Item #11. Discussion on Town Office work week schedule

Tiffany states a count was done based off the video from upstairs. It was run through a program to do individual counts and sometimes the count varied so Tiffany reviewed the video and realized that even if we had a physical door counter, it would be off. Several times Tiffany saw people going in and out due to forgetting something and a person with children. Tiffany said there was no notice of pattern during the study.

Mike stated it is very random here in Wilton.

Maria stated she would like to move forward with the proposed schedule as presented. Maria states she would be interested in doing a trial through the summer to see how things go. The public service hours currently open are 32 and would be increased to 37 with the change in hours.

Motion by Mike/Second by Phil- to accept proposed schedule and try it through the summer.

Tiffany stated if the pilot period isn't working, it can be revisited.

Mike suggested a scannable code on the door for hours the office is closed.

David stated he needs a timeline for the trial.

Maria suggested a start day of May 5th to start at the beginning of the week.

David suggested having the trial through Labor Day.

Motion by Mike/Second by Tiffany – to accept the proposed schedule with a trial period of the 5th of May till Labor Day then readdress the effectiveness in either complaints or comments.

Amended motion Vote: 4-1 Passes

Original motion as amended: 4-1 Passes

Item #12 Next Selectboard Meetings

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

-April 15, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Item #13 Other

Keith asked for the amended undesignated fund balance policy on 2/2/24 we had three members present and it was voted to be tabled till the next meeting, and it was not added.

Mike stated a notice on the door and a posting on the website for the new hours would be good.

Item #14 Managers report

Maria states nomination papers for selectboard seat number three, selectboard seat number four, and RSU #9 seats are available at the town office. Completed papers must be returned to the town office by April 11th.

Bids for the Blueberry Festival fireworks were due back on Thursday and none were received. Renee will be sending out the RFP again. Bids will be due back April 10th in hopes to approve the bid on April 15th.

Maria was in contact with Jeffrey Reed from CV and Mahar engineers and he is working on preparing a proposal to complete the plans and prepare permitting applications. He provided a list of applications that they anticipate including, including the town site plan review, the DEP permit application, etc. All these permits will be required, and we will be moving forward.

Keith asked how many nomination papers have been taken out per seat.

Maria states one person has taken out for seat number four, two people for seat number three, and none for the RSU #9 seat. One has been returned for seat number 4.

Keith suggested looking into the purchasing policy since there is only one company that can complete a bid.

Item #15 Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Evaluation

Motion by David/ Second by Keith- to move into executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Evaluation. 6:50 PM Out 7:16 PM

Vote: 5-0

Item # 16 Action following Executive Session, if applicable

None

Item # 17 Adjourn

Motion by David/Second by Mike- to Adjourn

Vote: 5-0