

TOWN OF WILTON

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: January 6, 2014
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Donovan, III, Selectmen William F. Condra and Richard E. Swanson, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Donovan.

Jane Farrell was first on the agenda. Chairman Donovan called for a nonpublic session at 6:34 P.M. to discuss taxes per RSA 91-A:3,II(c). The motion was seconded by Selectman Condra and voted in the affirmative.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:26 P.M.

Public Works Director Steve Elliott attended the meeting to discuss the letter from Wilton Water Works. The letter stated that "The Wilton Water Works herein grants to Water Superintendent Mike Bergeron sole authority over all town projects which affect the Wilton Water System". The letter was intended to clarify who has authority over town employees who perform work on behalf of the Water Department. Steve stated that he is troubled by giving authority over Town employees; the Commissioners are elected to have authority and they are giving up some of their rights. He asked what will happen during emergencies. They discussed how emergencies are currently handled. Steve feels that the wording in the letter implies an intent to replace his authority with theirs. He asked if this is what the Water Department wants and if the Selectmen go along with it.

Chairman Donovan mentioned the "borrowed servants rule" and he

thinks that is what is going on here; the Water Department is renting out employees so they have responsibility. He thinks the concept is ok but the wording bothers him also. Steve Elliott talked about the fact that the Water Commissioners have been constantly changing lately, but the Highway Department always gets the job done.

Water Commissioner Tom Schultz was in the audience and was asked what was meant by affecting the water system. He read a statement from the Department of Environmental Services. He told the Board that Mike Bergeron is a Certified Water Works Operator and he has to have final authority over how the water system is operated. Chairman Donovan asked again what was meant by “affecting”. Tom said projects that affect the water system. Mike is in charge of the operation of the water system; nothing to do with the Highway Department. He said there were no other intentions in the letter and don’t read things into it if they’re not there. Steve understands the law and has had licensed employees in his department previously.

There was a discussion about what Steve could do in an emergency situation. Steve is authorized to turn off water in an emergency.

Chairman Donovan suggested to Tom that they need to iron out some things. Tom and Steve got into a discussion about part of the Maple Street project. In the end, the following statement was agreed upon: In an emergency the Director of Public Works is authorized to take such steps as necessary to protect life and health until the arrival of the Water Superintendent. Selectmen Condra stated that when the Superintendent comes on the scene he makes tactical and technical decisions regarding the water system.

Dawn Tuomala was next on the agenda to present her contract for the Storm Water project. Dan asked a question to which Dawn replied that she wants the ability to switch things around between the tasks but the bottom line is not to exceed the price quoted. Dawn divided the work over a five year period. The Selectmen think the contract is well written. Dawn was asked a couple more questions and then Selectman

Condra made the following motion:

Motion: The motion was made to authorize the contract submitted by Dawn Tuomala for the Storm Water Management Plan; subject to funding by vote at Town Meeting. Selectman Swanson seconded the motion but he had one question concerning whether the project should have been put out to bid. Dan said there is no policy regarding that and they try to use local contractors. Plus without Dawn's time and experience this project cost would have been greater. Hearing no further discussion the Board voted all in favor.

The next discussion the Selectmen had concerned the contributions and percentages assigned to the Ambulance Service member towns. Dan explained Temple's contribution for the new ambulance and the assigned percentage calculations of: 55% Wilton; 20% Temple; and 25% Lyndeborough, based on population; this breakdown has been used for some period of time. Chairman Donovan relayed a discussion he had with one Temple Selectmen regarding their percentage. The contract states 21% of the ambulance replacement cost will be paid for by Temple but the CIP plan says 20% and that is the figure Dawn has used all along. Selectman Swanson thinks the percentage should be 20% because of population; Selectman Condra agreed. The Selectmen agreed to set Temple's contract amount at 20%.

The HTE contract was discussed next. Tom Schultz stayed to discuss it with the Board. The contract looks fine. The new contract price is \$20,700. \$16,600 has been encumbered which leaves \$1,400. The two Water Commissioners present (Tom Schultz and Bill Condra) agreed that the Water Department will cover the difference. With this agreement, Chairman Donovan signed the contract. He asked Tom Schultz to follow up with DES to make sure the contract with HTE would match up to their requirements. They discussed the dam some with Tom saying he was told it looked like the seepage had possibly increased. Dan talked about an agreement concerning the operations of the dams. He will ask Attorney Little to work out a draft. Mike

Bergeron is willing to be involved with the dam operations if he receives training for it.

Chairman Donovan told the Board about two major repair items for the Fire Department. A pump froze on the pumper while they were responding to a mutual aid call and another fire truck got hit by a car causing minor damage.

Next he talked about his concern with the Main Street Association and whether the Town should continue to fund the Association and abate the taxes on lot 48 and on their building. Selectman Swanson thinks that the group has the potential to be worth it but has some issues to be worked on. It was stated that they are supposed to generate enough revenue to fund themselves. Chairman Donovan questioned what the Town gets in return for the appropriation and abatements granted. Selectman Swanson would like a better understanding of their function. Whether the Selectmen want to take a position at the Budget hearing on this topic was questioned.

It was agreed that the Board of Selectmen will authorize Dan to make decisions on the Board's behalf regarding Warrant Articles. Chairman Donovan also asked for the Board's position on the Conservation Commission's request for more money. Selectmen Condra stated that we have a lot of land in conservation already and he is of the opinion that we are at saturation point. Selectman Swanson disagrees. Bill stated that developable land is shrinking and he is not in favor of putting more money into the Conservation fund this year. Chairman Donovan stated that he is bothered that the last piece of land they purchased was landlocked. Also concerning, is that the Conservation Commission heard concerns at their last Public Hearing but they had already voted to spend the money. Dan stated that nearly 40% of our land cannot be developed. Selectman Swanson suggested getting the map out and marking what is in conservation. He stated that it will improve the value of the land and that people will want to develop. He

also noted that Wilton is selling more houses than other areas per the newspapers. Chairman Donovan reminded them that Wilton is the only area town to lose population, which means there are fewer people to pay the taxes. He talked about the lack of commercial development in Wilton and suggested growth of the Commercial and Industrial zones instead of taking more land off the tax rolls. Selectman Swanson talked about the rural attraction of Wilton and he doesn't think the tax base is shrinking. He feels that the Frye field is a jewel in the crown to protect the farm character of the area. Dan stated that the Current Use program subsidizes the agricultural development. Selectman Condra feels that it is not up to the taxpayers to pay for open land so people can drive by to see open space; he suggests slowing it down. Chairman Donovan said we need to look at what we're doing. Selectman Swanson said he is not there in agreement.

The minutes were approved.

This week's manifests were signed.

The HTE Engineering Contract for the New Reservoir Dam was signed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 P.M. by Chairman Donovan, seconded by Selectman Condra followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary