

TOWN OF WILTON

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: June 16, 2014
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman William F. Condra and Selectmen Richard E. Swanson, Kermit R. Williams, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Condra. The meeting was requested by Chief Hautanen for purposes of discussing the fireworks display that is scheduled for Saturday during the Summerfest celebration. The Emergency Services Department Heads were invited to this meeting.

Chairman Condra asked Chief Hautanen to speak about his concerns. The Chief spoke of his understanding that the fireworks were going to be set off from Carnival Hill while the people watched them from Main Street. Late last week he heard about the change of plans to have them set off and be viewed from Carnival Hill. He is concerned about the lack of area for people to gather and park there. He had recommended using PEP Direct's lot for parking, and launching the fireworks from the gravel pit. Brent feels that the whole issue has been dropped in his lap and his Department is not prepared for such an event with such short notice. He has recently met with Michelle Levesque who has put together a plan for off-site parking and a shuttle service. The Chief feels a little better about it now. He has talked to Milford's Police Chief regarding mutual aid if necessary, whereas half of Carnival Hill is in Milford. He will contact the Lyndeborough Chief tomorrow to talk about parking on the roads in Lyndeborough. Brent mentioned his disappointment that the Emergency Services personnel were not contacted earlier as this is a major event in his community; he will need

five officers for details that day. Site security is his concern.

Selectman Swanson asked why the decision was made to view the fireworks from Carnival Hill. He was told it was because they couldn't be seen from Main Street. Selectman Swanson complimented Chief Hautanen for looking for solutions.

David McBee of Main Street Association stated that he supports the Chief and he has talked to Chief Dick. David agrees that it appears that not nearly enough conversations took place for this event, therefore, they are in the position they are in.

Chief Dick was asked for his opinion. He stated that he met up there today. They must maintain a 250 foot minimum distance from discharge to where the crowd is, or 400 feet if it is windy. He will have a fire truck stationed at the top and another one in the parking lot. He feels he has a good handle on it.

Next, Ambulance Chief Zirpolo was asked for his comments. He stated that all of his information has come from Chief Hautanen. Michelle came to see him last Thursday but Gary was at a conference. He understands that there will be several hundred people at the event so he will have to staff additional help. He will have himself and two EMT's on-site with a second crew sitting at the Ambulance Bay. If his primary ambulance is called out then he will need to call for mutual aid. He will talk to the Milford Ambulance Chief tomorrow.

Chairman Condra stated that he feels ok to proceed with the fireworks and wants to hear about parking. Michelle Levesque spoke saying that she is a Promotion Committee member, not the Chairperson as some people have been indicating. She talked about the parking plans, stating that she is trying to make it work. Some of the Main Street merchants expressed concern about business if parking is allowed along Main Street during the fireworks. Michelle's plan is to put up

temporary “No Parking for Fireworks” signs. There will be announcements over a PA system and there will be event information handouts. The Main Street road closure will end at 5:00 P.M. Shuttle service is being provided by LA Limousine. The furthest parking area is WLC which is 1.12 miles to Carnival Hill.

David McBee spoke about the cost for the additional Police and Ambulance presence; he asked if the Town would be willing to share these costs. He said that this event is designed for the promotion of Wilton; it is a community event. The costs exceed their budget at this point and he needs to know if he has the Selectmen’s support. Main Street Association needs to break even at best. Both the Police Chief and Ambulance Chief stated that this event could put them over their already stretched budgets. Chief Hautanen estimated the extra cost to be approximately \$1000 and Chief Zirpolo estimated \$150 per person plus \$100 for supplies.

Selectman Swanson noted that the Main Street Association got their budget cut in half this year so he is open to the idea of some support from the Town to help bring business to Town.

Chief Dick stated that his department is made up of volunteers so he’s doing it for free anyway.

Treasurer Jerry Greene said that he doesn’t understand why there is an extra Ambulance service cost because there are 700 people in Town; asking if this isn’t the same as everyday life with the combined town populations. Gary Zirpolo stated that the group is in one area and many are walking to the event. He told how the service had done this for a similar event in the town of Temple and was reimbursed by Temple. In the end it is up to the Selectmen to decide.

David credited Michelle Levesque, Tina Benson and DJ with doing a lot of the work, but he says they are running out of time. There are

only 4 days left and they still need Porta-potty's, Police and Ambulance coverage, and they are short of money. He stated that he thinks the Board of Selectmen should make a statement that they want to see this event happen.

Selectman Williams asked if the Town picked up the cost of the Police and Ambulance would Main Street Association be able to cover the rest. After further discussion, Chairman Condra suggested that the three department heads carry the additional costs through their budgets through the end of the year. Chief Hautanen volunteered to print the "No Parking" signs and Chairman Condra volunteered to supply the stakes for the signs.

Motion: Selectman Williams made a motion for the Town to support this effort in whatever way possible including the Town agencies' absorption of additional costs with an expectation that the Board will handle overages at the end of the year. Selectman Swanson seconded the motion and a unanimous vote in the affirmative followed.

Selectman Swanson commented on two Land Use Change tax applications for lots on Hawthorne Drive. He thinks the value placed on these lots is overpriced. Selectman Williams explained that in Todd Haywood's opinion the lots are worth that amount of money because of the land that surrounds them. Chairman Condra stated that he leaves these decisions up to Todd because it is his job to make value assessments, and there is an appeals process available. Selectman Swanson feels that it is his responsibility when something doesn't look right to question it. He will discuss it with Todd via email.

The minutes were approved.

The Accounts Payable Manifests for the week were approved.

Payroll for period ending 6/14/14 was signed.

Two (2) Timber Tax Warrants were signed.

Two (2) Land Use Change Tax applications were signed

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 P.M. by Chairman Condra, seconded by Selectman Williams followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;
Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary