

TOWN OF WILTON  
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: April 13, 2015  
Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Place: Town Office  
Present: Chairman Richard E. Swanson, Selectmen William F. Condra and Kermit R. Williams.  
Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

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

Police Chief Hautanen was first on the agenda requesting a nonpublic session per RSA 91:A-3,II(a). A motion was made and seconded to go into nonpublic session at 6:30 P.M.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M. Chairman Swanson moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Williams. Motion passed with vote: Swanson, Aye; Williams, Aye; Condra, Aye.

Jane Farrell was as next on the agenda. Chairman Swanson called for a second nonpublic session at 6:44 P.M. per RSA 91:A-3,II(c) seconded by Selectman Williams and voted in the affirmative.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:59 P.M. Chairman Swanson moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Williams. Motion passed with vote: Swanson, Aye; Williams, Aye; Condra, Aye.

Jane gave the board the deferred tax statute. The time frame has a March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Jane could include information about this tax aid on the flyer that she will include with the next tax bill.

Treasurer Jerry Greene attended the meeting to give a quarterly budget review. He talked about the budgets for the Ambulance Department and the Water Commission. Chairman Swanson stated that he is the Selectmen's Representative on the Budget Committee and that last week they requested that the Selectmen ask Attorney Little what the mechanism is to bring the Water Commission back to the Town. Jerry told that it was looked into several years ago but the process needs legislative approval. He suggested speaking to someone from one of towns that had done it. A bill must be presented to the Legislature for a vote. There would be further discussion on the topic later on the agenda.

Jerry proceeded to review the budgets for the Water Commission and the Sewer Commission. It was stated that the Sewer Commission intends to raise the rates.

The Town Hall budget was discussed next. Jerry stated that the Contract Services line item shows a one-time fee for the new software in Jane's office. He noted that \$11,400 is paid throughout the Town for dues and subscriptions. He would like to know if they are all necessary or are they being paid just to support the organization; are we really getting benefit from these services? Regarding the Town Hall clerical labor line; he doesn't understand why they are not working less hours in that office. Jerry agreed to the new software to save the money in labor, but in comparison, he sees a marked increase in the first quarter this year. Chairman Swanson said the Board will follow up with Jane.

Jerry continued his review of some of the smaller budgets and the Police and Fire Departments. Public Works Director Steve Elliott was in the audience so Jerry included him in the discussion of the Highway budget. Chairman Swanson talked about the labor line, asking if overtime can be tracked. He would

like to see if we can get a handle on it and find ways to work smarter, maybe with contract labor or hiring part time help. Steve voiced his disagreement about using part time help. Jerry stated that in six months percentage-wise it may come down.

The Emergency Management line item was discussed. To answer where to charge the \$8,500 for the generator installation, Jerry suggested putting it in this line with the hope of making up the difference at the end of the year on the overall budget. He believes things should be charged where they should be charged.

Steve Elliott was next to discuss the sidewalk at FRES. The new sidewalk was put in around an existing telephone pole. The Highway Department is now unable to plow the sidewalk. During the discussion, Steve noted that he has a meeting set up with Eversource, School Board member Harry Dailey, and Hutter Construction to discuss it again. Steve has an idea and if the Selectmen agree he will present his option and begin a discussion and ask for the School to pay for the reconstruction. Selectmen Condra and Williams agreed and Chairman Swanson stated that the Select Board agreed with Steve's proposal.

The autonomy of the Water Commission was the next discussion item. Water Commissioner Frank Edelblut and Treasurer Jerry Green were in attendance for the discussion.

Chairman Swanson gave the background. The Budget Committee asked him to find out what the mechanism would be to bring the Water Commission back to the Town. There was a lengthy discussion about the way the money is handled and co-mingling of funds. Jerry stated that the funds are required to be co-mingled by Charter. Selectman Williams told that the Commission was created in such a way that the State would have to undo it. They discussed the failing infrastructure of the water system. Jerry told how the property is owned by the Town but the Water Commissioners can spend money without the Selectmen's permission. The Town owns everything that the Water Department has. Each participant gave their opinion of how they would like to see it work. Selectman Williams offered to talk to a lawyer at NHMA. The most the Selectmen could do is send a request to the Legislature. Steve Elliott asked if the Selectmen were going to pursue this issue. Again, there were differences of opinion: Jerry said they may have to bring it to the voters first; Selectman Williams said in order to change the Town's authority you have to ask the State to do it by getting a bill passed; Selectman Condra thinks you have to ask the voters at Town Meeting. Chairman Swanson said it was a good discussion. Selectman Williams said you don't need the Town's authorization.

Chairman Swanson gave an Energy Committee update: The Committee is in favor of recommending the vendor who comes recommended by Margaret Dillon, saying he is the most qualified to do the job. Selectman Condra is ok with that. Selectman Williams said in the end the Board of Selectmen has to authorize the payment, but he is ok with it as well.

Next, Rick said that the Energy Committee wants to take a position regarding the pipeline; they would like to advocate for the Town to say that it supports renewable energy. He presented their written statement. Selectman Williams thinks the statement is premature and the language is over the top. They should be looking for economical energy for the Town. He stated that there are several potential solutions; we can't say that all we believe in is renewable energy. He said that that the Energy Committee is made up of a group of enthusiastic volunteers but he just does not want a warrant article; it's aggressive and premature. Chairman Swanson will share the Board's comments with the committee.

The next discussion was about changing the name of the Capital Improvement Plan to Equipment Needs and Analysis. The Budget Committee suggested making the name change because the CIP is a function of the Planning Board, but they do not do it. It's not just capital equipment; what's needed is a capital plan for

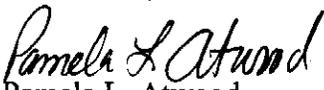
the Town. The Budget Committee suggested establishing a group with people who have a stake in the plan. Selectman Williams said there could be an adhoc group that would look at the long term capital needs of the Town in the next 10-20 years. There was further discussion. The Selectmen will discuss this item with the Planning Board during a joint meeting.

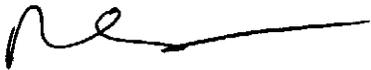
The Town Manager position was discussed. Chairman Swanson stated that they should look at the pros and cons of having a Town Manager or Town Administrator. A lot of things that fall on the Selectmen would be well served with a Town Manager. Other items could include the capital plan, grant writing, economic development, and wage and salary chores. Wilton is the only town that doesn't have a Town Manager or Administrator in this area. Other towns have found a way to afford it. Chairman Swanson stated this position would not be instead of an Administrative Assistant; it would make that job work better. Selectman Williams suggested getting someone from a neighboring town to come tell us what they do.

The Selectmen asked that the Quinn pit discussion be put as a future agenda item when both Assessor Todd Haywood and Attorney Silas Little can attend.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:31P.M. by Chairman Swanson, seconded by Selectman Williams, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

  
Pamela L. Atwood,  
Recording Secretary



Richard E. Swanson

Kermit R. Williams



William F. Condra

4-27-15

Date Signed