

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: June 8, 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 6:35 P.M. by Chairman Swanson.

Selectman Condra made a motion to enter nonpublic session at 6:35 P.M. followed by a second and a unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:54 P.M. Chairman Swanson moved to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Williams. Motion passed with vote: Swanson, Aye; Williams, Aye; Condra, Aye.

During the public comment period audience member Mr. Rantala stated he was in attendance for a discussion about the sign posted at the *Dummy* listing an event at the Roam Café. He thought it would be discussed by the Selectmen tonight. Selectmen Condra explained that a written complaint had come into the Selectmen's office regarding placement of that sign which advertised an event hosted by the Greater Wilton Republican Committee. He cited the Wilton Zoning and Land Use signage section stating that temporary signs are allowed for 30 days. It goes on to mention a reader board but there is no definition of what a reader board is. He thinks the sign posted in the *Dummy* area complies with the ordinance.

Chairman Swanson proposed posting the issue for a discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Rantala said he would wait for that discussion.

Next, Alyssum Proctor Russell who is on the Board of *A Child's Nature Day Care Center* was on the agenda to discuss the Pine Hill tax exemption request. Mary McDonough, Pine Hill School Administrator, was also in attendance for the discussion. Alyssum gave some history of the daycare. She told that a tax bill had been issued, triggered by the Day Care operation. She met with Assessor Todd Haywood to go over the assessment. Todd made some changes and told Alyssum that being a nonprofit organization, alone, does not qualify them for tax exemption. Part of the lease agreement states that any taxes will be covered by *A Child's Nature Daycare Center*. Selectman Condra read the denial letter written by Assessor Haywood, which started a discussion about the daycare being open to the public. Nancy Wilson, Director of *A Child's Nature* stated that they accept State funding for those who can't afford it. The service is open to all families. Selectman Condra stated that daycare is not considered education. Chairman Swanson said that the law mentions nonprofits, and they are a 501(c) (3) and their service is administered to the general public. A motion was made and then withdrawn. The discussion was that this exemption be granted to Pine Hill School for the 2015 tax year because the primary occupant is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. The exemption is not transferrable.

Motion: Chairman Swanson made a motion to grant Pine Hill School a property tax exemption for 2015 for the space occupied by *A Child's Nature Daycare*. Selectman Condra seconded the motion followed by a 2-0 vote with Selectman Williams abstaining.

Jane Farrell was next on the agenda to discuss dog licensing enforcement. Her new software can track dog licensing in a better manner than they have been able to in the past. It is the law that dogs must be licensed even though it doesn't raise much money. To date 600 dogs have been licensed with 200 that have not

been licensed. Because of the manpower needed, they haven't effectively pursued tracking the unlicensed dogs. Jane showed the Selectmen the RSA and proposed using the money for the administration and enforcement of the law. Jane will come back at end of June with an update and then consider hiring someone to be paid out of the \$25 proceeds from fines. There was a discussion on how best and most cost effectively to clean up the unlicensed dog list. Selectman Williams said not doing it is defaulting on what the State is telling us to do. He suggested making phone calls first and then send out a mailing stating a \$25 fine if conditions are not met. This money could be used to pay for additional time for someone in Jane's office to do these tasks. Chairman Swanson and Selectman Condra agreed to this approach.

Motion: Selectman Williams made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to use additional hours for her staff to make phone calls to validate the unlicensed dog list, and to further request unlicensed dog owners to conform to the RSA. On July 1st any remaining names on the list would receive a letter saying they owe a \$25 fee. Selectman Condra seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous vote. Motion carries. The Selectmen will review the letter on June 22nd.

The Quinn Pit exemption status was the next item discussed. Attorney Wil Sullivan joined the conversation. The proposed changes to the agreement submitted by Attorney Little were discussed. Attorney Sullivan explained that it is an agreement not a lease and since 2004/2005 it has never been an issue. Chairman Swanson said the changes were well written and would solve the problem. Selectman Condra agrees. Selectman Williams is uncomfortable with it, saying that the taxing authority pointed out that a lease is the exclusive use of the land; they have permanent structures built there; it is not open to the public, therefore, it is, in fact, a lease. Attorney Sullivan stated that if the Town wanted to go on the land they could; the use is not exclusive. Chairman Swanson is comfortable taking Attorney Little's advice and consider it sale of gravel, not a lease. Selectman Condra agrees. Selectman Williams said he is out-voted but he won't support it, saying that it doesn't fit the opinion of the Assessor and State law. Selectman Condra said this is a long standing good faith acceptance of an agreement that was just mislabeled lease.

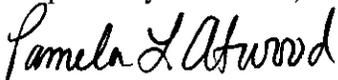
Motion: Selectman Condra made a motion to move forward with the change given by Attorney Little which modifies the document to say agreement in place of lease. Chairman Swanson seconds. Vote: Condra, aye; Swanson, aye; Williams, nay. Motion carries 2-1.

Chairman Swanson noted that the Town Hall energy project can wait for two weeks to be discussed.

Selectman Williams answered a question from an audience member regarding a proposal to get rid of dog licensing at the State level.

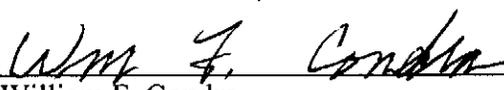
Chairman Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Condra. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted;


Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary


Richard E. Swanson, Chairman


Kermit R. Williams


William F. Condra

6-22-15
Date Signed