

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: December 8, 2014
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Town Office
Present: Chairman William F. Condra and Selectmen Richard E. Swanson and Kermit R. Williams;
and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Condra. He announced that all the Emergency Services Department Heads who were on tonight's agenda are currently at an emergency scene, so the Fire, Ambulance, and Police Chiefs may not be able to present their budgets tonight. There may be a need for a special meeting to review these budgets at a later date.

There was a discussion about joining the electric co-op offered by NRPC.

There is a meeting in Fitzwilliam next Monday on the proposed pipeline route. The Board discussed their interest in the pipeline proposal. They discussed other options available. Selectman Swanson wonders if we need to partner with other Towns that are on the route. All three Selectman stated that they are in favor of the pipeline proposal. The knowledge that Board of Selectmen take the opinion of being in favor of having natural gas piped into Wilton, might spur an interest for future businesses.

Chief Hautanen was able to make the meeting in time to conduct his budget review. He explained his handout. He does not expect to go over budget. He explained the Labor-Private Duty line item. Included in this budget is the second half of the raises that were approved last year to bring the Police Department salaries up to a competitive scale. He went with the 1% raise for the rest of his staff as requested by the Budget Committee. There were questions regarding the proposed raises. Brent explained that he did a salary study and chose the State Police scale to use for his Department. Selectman Williams would like to see the study. Chairman Condra told about Treasurer Jerry Greene's reaction to the proposed 1% raise that was recommended by the Budget Committee. Selectman Swanson stated that the Selectmen should honor the agreement to split the Police raises over two years, but in particular he asked about Brent's 6.3% increase. Brent stated that he will be in his 12th year with the Town. There was some disagreement with what Selectman Swanson remembers last year's proposal to be, compared to what Brent has in his budget. Chairman Condra is in agreement with Rick; he remembers Brent wanting a 7% increase and he asked if Brent could do half each year. When questioned about the percentage raise per Officer; The Chief explained that he placed his Officers in the correct step of the step increase and did not necessarily pay attention to the percentage per Officer. Selectman Swanson would like to see the minutes. He wants to make sure to do what was agreed upon. Brent was asked for an explanation of overtime for his department. Approximately \$27,000 is included in the Officer's salary line for overtime. Chairman Condra stated that he understands the concept of having some amount of overtime built in for emergencies, noting that there were other departments that failed to budget for overtime. Selectman Swanson asked for confirmation that the Chief is looking for a 7.1% increase for the total budget. Chairman Condra stated again that he is still in favor of supporting what was agreed to last year; and that this budget will move forward to the Budget Committee. There was additional discussion on certain line items in the Police Department budget. Chairman Condra thanked the Chief.

Fire Chief Ray Dick was able to make it to the meeting. His purpose of his appointment was to present the details of the new rescue truck that he intends to purchase. There is \$425,000 available for the purchase.

He gave the amounts quoted by the first three vendors he contacted; they ranged from \$500,000 to \$436,000. Valley Fire Equipment came in at \$424,455.90, so this is Ray's choice. He is replacing the 1989 one-ton chassis. It is a full sized fire truck. They discussed when it will be ready and when the money will be needed.

Next, Ray explained to the Selectmen how \$7,500 for additional engineering fees came out of the Fire Station Renovation budget but it should have come out of the budget to bid the Fire Station. In the end, Ray can use money from his operating budget for the remaining office equipment and still be under on his total budget. He is asking for the Board's approval to do this. The Board concurred.

Motion: Selectmen Williams made a motion to authorize Chief Dick to contract for the purchase of the rescue vehicle as presented tonight. Selectman Swanson seconds. A vote with all in favor followed. Motion carries.

They briefly discussed Ray's 2015 budget.

The Board discussed the Energy Audit draft results.

TDS Telephone Company is asking for authorization to install some conduit piping in a section of Wilton from Wilton Center Road through the intersection of Isaac Frye Highway. Selectman Swanson began a discussion about putting electric utilities underground at the same time. The request from TDS will be forwarded to the Planning Board to see if they have any concerns.

Selectman Swanson talked about the High Mowing Easement, stating that everything appears to be correct. Chairman Condra would like to see a comparison of the changes requested and made. Attorney Little's email stated that everything was met. Selectman Williams told the Board about the meeting held on Friday and he agreed that all requested changes were made. It was stated that the money needs to go to the escrow agent by the end of the year. Chairman Condra would like something in writing from the Federal Government stating that they need the money in escrow in order to continue the process. He would like to see the requirement. Selectman Williams stated that this is why they are not signing the easement yet; however, the money will have to be put into escrow. Selectman Williams will obtain that document.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo talked about his budget briefly and got paged out to a call.

The Board signed the agreement between the Town and High Mowing School.

The next discussion was about a noted discrepancy with the DPW salary line items. The area of discussion was whether or not a \$5,000 increase was approved for the Director of Public Works last year. Minutes from the Budget Committee only mention \$2,500. Further items touched upon were: That the split management position of the Highway Department and the Recycling Center is advantageous for the Town; recollection of an increase being approved; signed work agreements; and possibly obtaining the impression of the Budget Committee.

Next, some items in the Town Hall budget were discussed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 P.M. by Chairman Condra, seconded by Selectman Williams, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood

Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary

William F. Condra

William F. Condra

Richard E. Swanson

Richard E. Swanson

Kermit R. Williams

Kermit R. Williams

12-22-14

Date Signed