

Wilton Water Works
Thursday, August 28, 2014
DRAFT MINUTES

1 Wilton Water Works held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the
2 Selectmen's Office. Present were Commissioners Tom Schultz (Chairman), Bill Condra, Steve Elliott;
3 Water Superintendent Mike Bergeron; Clerk Joanna Eckstrom; Dawn Tuomala and Dan Tinkham (for
4 reclamation of Quinn's Route 31S property); Wilton Selectmen Bill Condra, Rick Swanson, Kermit
5 Williams (regarding shared costs and wetland delineation for dam engineering); and member of public
6 Charlie McGettigan.

7 **Call to order** Chairman Schultz called meeting to order at 6:30. Mr Condra proposed and commissioners
8 unanimously agreed to end meeting at 9:00 PM – a work session or continuation would be scheduled to
9 handle any unfinished business.

10 **Public input / comment** NONE

11 **Minutes July 24, 2014** - A motion by Mr. Condra, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to accept the July 24 minutes
12 as written was unanimously approved.

13 **Accounts Payable – Pam Atwood reports** (thru July 31) Reports reviewed and in order with question
14 question of how bill from Barry Miller (new pump) would be handled. \$26,000 was paid out of the Water
15 department operating account and assigned to 'Subcontracted Services' line. Should have come from a
16 capital reserve account. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr Schultz, commissioners unanimously
17 approved withdrawal of \$26,000 from Wells, Pump and Equipment capital reserve to reimburse WWW
18 operating account. Clerk to send instruction/authorization to Pam, Mary, Betsy.

19 **Quinn property reclamation** – Jim and Tom Quinn, Dawn Tuomala and Dan Tinkham – Quinns were
20 not present. Dawn (Monadnock Survey) spoke in Quinns behalf. Dan (Emery & Garrett Groundwater
21 Investigations LLC) spoke in behalf of the WWW. Both Dawn and Dan involved in project since its
22 beginning; both said Quinns have been and continue to be in compliance with standards set by WWW,
23 Planning Board, etc. with respect to reclamation of the 'pit' on Route 31S. Dan presented written report
24 (letter dated August 6, 2014 and engineering plans on file) on requirement to maintain a 10' foot (above
25 the water table) buffer on areas that have been disturbed by the gravel excavation. (Dawn's drawings
26 incorporate data from Dan's testing and conditions imposed by WWW.) Dan confirmed that studies show
27 that, in many areas, buffer is more than 10 ft. Said site will be reclaimed using same material that was
28 removed – planning board required that material be kept on-site. Dawn further explained that Dennis
29 LaBombarde will be doing his own surveys and reports as required for the Planning Board.

30 Part of reclamation process involves hydro-seeding (to take place early in September). Mr
31 Condra expressed his concern about hydro-seed formula and any potential risks to water supply. Dawn
32 said the companies that have been contacted understand that this site is in the water supply district. Dawn
33 will get tech data on hydro-seeding; Dan will look at information as well.

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34 On a motion by Mr Condra, seconded by Mr Elliott, that based on satisfactory findings in the
35 technical data about hydro-seeding, the WWW unanimously gave its tentative approval of the plan.
36 Dawn will forward info to WWW and Dan asap.

37 **Selectmen** - review shared costs and Dam Engineering update – Mr Condra will participate in this
38 discussion as a Selectman and Water Commissioner.

39 Mr. Schultz cited history – previous Select board sent letter (Jan 2014) regarding ownership and shared
40 costs of reservoirs to WWW. Letter was drafted by Wilton Town Counsel, Silas Little. WWW contacted
41 its counsel, Bob Drescher to review and advise on its WWW response. WWW serves customers in
42 Wilton and Milford; at one time, before the tank was installed, drinking water came from the reservoirs.
43 Today reservoirs provide water for hydrants, fire protection for downtown and areas not supplied by
44 WWW. The reservoirs have always been listed as town owned property.

45 In June 2014, the WWW clerk sent a response to the Selectmen stating: “Please be advised that the
46 Wilton Water Works commissioners reviewed the aforementioned agreement with counsel and,
47 at its May 22nd meeting, voted unanimously to “respectfully decline ownership but (that WWW
48 will) continue to participate in maintenance and upkeep of the dams.” This is still the WWW’s
49 position in the matter.

50 Selectmen Swanson and Williams asked about ‘shared costs.’ Currently, this may be engineering
51 studies required by DES, especially related to old dams. As to town’s interest / reason for ownership,
52 Mr Elliott said it’s recreational property used by the town, not just water users; he reiterated about fire
53 protection for areas that aren’t connected to the water tanks.

54 Mr Swanson asked about reservoirs being a back-up water supply should something happen with wells.
55 Mr Schultz said reservoirs could be used for fire protection but not as a back-up for potable water. Mr
56 Swanson asked rhetorical question – if engineering studies now being done recommend a million dollars
57 worth of repairs, who would pay – water users only or the town? Mr Condra said this would be up to the
58 voters, not the Selectmen or the WWW.

59 Speaking as a water commissioner, Mr Condra moved, Mr Elliott seconded to table further discussion
60 on shared costs / reservoir ownership. Motion carried: Unanimous

61 RE: Wetland Delineation for engineering study being done at reservoir (by H T E Engineering), Dawn
62 Tuomala completed this two years ago at the Selectmen’s request. Dawn was given permission to release
63 the report / plans to H T E asap so they can continue their study.

64 Mr Swanson said he would like the reservoir discussion on a future Selectmen’s meeting agenda.
65 Selectmen’s assistant will attend to this.

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67 **Accounts Receivable – Jane Farrell**

68 Follow up:

69 Relieve town departments of % water charges – consensus of commissioners to leave as is.

70 Water collections to date (8/25) \$100,143. Current bill due 9/15. If there are delinquencies of
71 two+ billing cycles, Mike Bergeron should shut-off as he is able (some shut off valves are inoperable).

72 Billing error corrections and one abatement of a late charge were approved.

73 Backflow devices on lawn irrigation systems – Mike B will check with Paul Whitemore to see if
74 these are being inspected and is there, indeed, a requirement for.

75 Semi-annual billings – although 2/3 of water commissioners want to go to 2 times year, public
76 hearing needed. Also, wait to hear what sewer department does. No change will take effect until 2015 so
77 keep as is for now. ITM, Jane to get cost / benefit numbers for various billing frequencies.

78 **Grant Follow up and Superintendent's report**

79 Generator purchased; to be when pad is finished. Larry Legere helped with site work. Mike to
80 get proposals for 2000 gallon underground propane tanks (Ciardelli recommends per specs from Koehler).

81 GIS mapping ... Mike enrolled in Asset Management training course ... Waterpoint Software
82 covered under the grant so it's good for Mike to attend.

83 Everett Well up and running; Barry Miller has been paid \$26000 – money to be transferred from
84 capital reserve to reimburse operating account.

85 Hydrants flushed last week. Mill Street hydrant leaks at traffic flange; Edgewater needs main
86 seed. Both are operable but will be repaired ASAP. Pine Valley hydrants are real gushers!

87 Iannacci job was interrupted with bridge failure but work to resume promptly.

88 Don King, Abbot Hill Rd has been given quote to put service to his home – entirely his expense.

89 **Property Insurance Inspections (PLT)** Completed with Mike B in attendance.

90 **Other Business**

91 Water (sewer) combined projects – 2015 Prince Street and end of Maple Street identified as
92 needing work in 2015.

93 Follow up from Dale White - Milford extend water lines - NONE

94 Website news – NONE

95 **Next meeting – September 25, 2014**

96 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

97 Respectfully submitted,

98 Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk