

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton Town Hall: Selectmen Office
7:00 P.M.

FINAL MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2014

Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chair, Don Davidson, Vice Chair, Betsy Castro, Harry Dailey, Donna Pucciarello, Joe Torre, Bill Condra, Selectmen Rep., and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary

1. Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Hughes polled the board to not hear the larger budgets in Public Safety and Highways and Streets until the entire committee can be present.

3. Vote on Finalized budgets:

Town Department Budgets:

Motion to approve Item 41310 Town Office Salaries for \$8,900 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: the selectmen have requested a \$1,500 increase in the selectman stipend. Mr. Daily questioned how the public would perceive this raise given that the total budget is up between 11 to 14%. They do put in crazy amounts of time, for the small amount. Also line item also includes others officers including the treasurer. Call the Question: 4 in favor; 3 no; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41330 Election & Registrations for \$1,780 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: there will be a national election this year creating the increase. Call the Question: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41300 Town Office Expense for \$324,968 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted an explanation as to why the account has increased were there new positions being created. It is up due to the 457(b) retirement plan being put into the budget. This has now been completely spread out under each department particular department instead of leaving it out under the benefits package. New equipment includes a new server and a new backup. The Town Clerk also needs a new cash register. Mr. Dailey asked if the new cash register will accept credit cards. If it were small money to upgrade to one where could swipe a card on it and there was the system to support that it might be a good idea. Mr. Davison questioned why on the Labor side was wasn't a standard used? Ms. Atwood explained that they are making an adjustment of 4.5% for all the employees. When she took over this position she shared the raise with Ms. Guild and this will even out the wages again. Printing has increased along with Travel. Call the question: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41340 Legal Expense for \$20,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted to know why there was such an increase. They are doing more activity in liens and back taxes so there are additional fees. Call the Question: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

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Motion to approve Item 42400 FICA for \$ 56,650 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 42401 Police State Retirement for \$125,614 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: the percentage was increased this year and it will remain at 26.5% for this year. Mr. Davidson questioned why this is out under the general budget when it should be in the police budget. Mr. Hughes explained that it has always been in the general government fund. Mr. Davidson questioned whether we want to keep it that way since the 457(b) funds were moved to each department. Based on the actual logical extension is to move all costs to that particular department, that way you get a truer picture for that particular department. A large driver is pushing these costs down to the local level. Mr. Davidson said to keep it this way this year and then decide next year. Mr. Hughes explained that this is an accounting procedure. Chief Hautanen explained why the large increase is what it is. This is the way that the State is paying an unfunded balance. There has been talk about changing it or to leave alone and it will fix itself in the future. They can't come back on the employees since they already increased the percentage on them a few years ago. Some of the increase is due to details that the officers do but they also bring in funds to help offset the costs. There are also grants that they get money back on. The raises will also have an effect on it. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41360 Planning Board Budget for \$47,450 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson questioned if they have ever spent that amount and this could be an area that we could cut since they don't use it all. If the economy increases and they have more applications this will quickly increase and they could go over their budget even though they have income to offset the expenses. Mr. Dailey stated that we need to start cutting otherwise we will get to the end and still have a double digit increase. Call the Question: 6 in favor; 1 opposed (Mr. Davidson); motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41370 Zoning Board Budget for \$3,531 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson this is another budget that could be reduced especially on advertising and not giving the clerk the increase. Call the question: 6 in favor; 1 opposed (Mr. Davidson), motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41380 General Gov't Building for \$46,168 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that in 2013 only \$37,800 was spent which included \$10,000 less on repairs than last year. There was an increase in shoveling for \$1,000 that the Selectmen just approved. Mr. Elliott stated that they are having roof issues and with the extra \$10,000 they are projected to do a minimal amount of repairs every year. Mr. Condra explained that they also need to do something to the 2 bathrooms this year. That along with an aging furnace that has been giving them issues they will require the entire amount. Call the Question: 6 in favor; 1 opposed (Mr. Davidson); Motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41350 Cemeteries Budget for \$ 27,016 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 42500 Benefit Package for \$ 222,622 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: This is based on the calculation that raises have been approved if not then a lower rate will have to be readjusted. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

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Motion to approve Item 42000 Unemployment Comp. for \$7,971 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 42300 Workers Comp for \$38,116 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: the insurance company gives us a number. There is a question whether this was properly distributed out to the various departments. Motion to table this discussion was made by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Dailey; Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre also agreed; Call the Question to table: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 42100 Insurance-Liability for \$40,999 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Motion to table this discussion was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Dailey. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve the Contingency Fund for \$5,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: The Selectmen have the ability to transfer funds from one department to another if there are unexpended funds available. Dr. Davidson questioned if they have ever touched this fund in recent memory. Mr. Hughes stated that he remembers one year they had to due to an injury, there were extra legal expenses. Call the question: Motion to amend this to \$1 was made by Mr. Davidson and seconded Mr. Dailey. 6 in favor; 1 no (Ms. Pucciarello); motion carries. All in favor of \$1 in the contingency fund; 6 yes 1 no (Ms. Pucciarello); motion carries.

Public Safety:

Motion to approve the W-L-T Ambulance Expenses for \$323,608 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson commented on the wages being different than what was recommended. Mr. Hughes explained that they had to change the way they compensate the people who are on call. The volunteer line has been reduced and wages put it in the on-call line. Call the question: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Chief Dick explained that due to the accident Engine 1 repair line needs to be increased by \$1,000 to be able to meet the deductible. Therefore the Fire Department budget needs to be \$126,993.

Motion to approve the Fire Department Expenses for \$126,993 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson questioned why the heating oil request has increased so much. It was explained that the Fire Station space has doubled in size, they have switched from heating oil to propane and they will also be using it to run the generator. The architect came in at over \$22,000 but they have trimmed it down based upon what they will probably use as they don't heat the station to 68°. For this year it is a guess on the expenses. The Town hasn't sent out bids for propane but they will. Mr. Davidson questioned why the budget was up 25% to 35%. Overall the anticipated operating costs of the station are up only 10% to 15% more but the space has doubled from 5,400 to 10,000 square feet. Mr. Dailey stated that we will have to pay the increase due to the change. During the construction when the new addition wasn't even sealed tight and they were using an exterior portable, blocking off the old section, the new section was still warmer than the old section. The new construction is much tighter than the old section. In addition there have been new equipment placed within the budget and not into the Capital Expenses since the definition of a Capital Expense has changed. There is concern that the bottom line is double digit and if we aren't careful moving forward it will stay up that high. Mr. Condra stated that the Chief did offer to reduce the budget by \$5,000 but he didn't know if he could stay within the limit and no one took him up on it. Mr. Davidson stated that he was close but would give the Chief a year to be able to get a good handle on the expenses for the new station. Call the Question at \$126,993: all in favor; motion carries unanimously.

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Motion to approve Item 41440 Building Inspection for \$19,853 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41450 Emergency Management for \$900 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson questioned why Diesel fuel was up \$200 and the line indicates that there was zero spent. This is for the generator at FRES. It is understood that the fuel was in another budget instead of this one. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41410 Communications for \$112,284 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted to confirm this is a bill from MACC Base and questioned what it was based on. It was explained that there is a new contract and it is based upon their costs. They had a chance to have extended coverage but due to an error the requirement wasn't put in the contract to have the private cell tower make space for public use. Therefore now it would cost another \$60,000 to get a space on the new tower. Chief Hautanen said that they might have another chance due to a tower possibly being relinquished to DRED on Pack Monadnock. They are always looking for a new site but the one on Pack Monadnock would improve communications, as it being at the highest point. Call the Question: All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve Item 41480 Hydrant Rental for \$20,240 was made by Ms. Castro seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Highways & Streets:

Motion to approve Item 41500 Street Lighting for \$32,562 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Sanitation & Water Budget:

Motion to approve Item 41530 Recycling Center Budget for \$534,492 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: The compactor has recently been installed but the haulage has been left alone since there hasn't been enough time to review the actual savings which will be less next year. It appears that we are gaining 2 to 3 tons per load and should get the money back in 5 years. Mr. Davidson stated that he thought the compactor should save time and labor reduce the overall. Mr. Davison stated that they came in \$10,000 under budget again this year therefore the budget should be cut by \$9,000. Mr. Davidson asked Mr. Elliott if he would consider \$525,000, taking off \$9,000 from the request. Mr. Elliott stated that would not be practical. This budget has been reviewed by all of the other participating Towns and they understand and have accepted the budget as it is.

Motion to amend the amount to \$525,000 was made by Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Dailey; Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre both agreed with the amendment. 2 in favor; 5 opposed; amendment fails. Call the question for \$534,492: 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Motion carries.

Mr. Davidson would like to have the Budget Committee vote on the Recycling and Ambulance budget prior to meeting with the other Towns. This is not achievable since the books are still opened and it is difficult to have the final numbers before then.

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Motion to approve the Municipal Sewer Budget for \$285,862 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Motion to approve the Water Department Budget for \$261,460 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Health:

Motion to approve Item 41550 Child Advocacy Center for \$2,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. 6 in favor; 1 opposed (Mr. Davidson); motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41580 Home Health Care for \$7,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. 5 in favor; 2 opposed; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41590 Monadnock Family Services for \$4,596 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: This cost is based upon population and the amount of people from Town that are served. Mr. Davidson stated that he feels that these shouldn't be paid for by tax payers but should be by donations only; Call the question; 4 in favor and 3 opposed; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41650 Milford Regional Counseling for \$800 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. 4 in favor; 3 opposed; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41630 Bridges for \$1,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: is this the same Bridges that the school uses; Chief Hautanen explained that this is for rape and domestic violence victims. Mr. Condra stated that the Lyons Club has committed to a 3 year contribution to Milford Bridges. The Child Advocacy center shepherds the children through the process plus they help some adults. 4 in favor; 3 opposed; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41620 Nashua Area Health (Lamprey) for \$1,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: they didn't send in the material to receive the payment last year.

Motion to amend the amount to \$1 was made by Mr. Dailey; Mr. Dailey then amended the amended motion to 0; seconded by Mr. Condra. Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre are in agreement with the amendment. Called the question for zero dollars: 5 in favor; 2 opposed; Motion carries.

Motion to approve CASA Court Appointed Special Advocate for \$500 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Motion to amend the amount to zero was made by Mr. Dailey; Mr. Davidson seconded. Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre agreed with the amendment. Discussion: whether anyone from Town used the service since they didn't request the money for last year. Call the question for zero dollars; 5 in favor; 2 opposed; motion carries

Motion for the 3 services that asked for just a contribution; American Red Cross, Big Brother and Big Sister and Habitat for Humanity be amended to zero was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Dailey; Call the question for zero dollars: All in favor; motion carries.

Welfare:

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Motion to approve Item 41570 Aid to Disabled St. Joseph's for \$1,800 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson asked if they bill us and how do they hit the exact amount of \$1,800? There are 32 Wilton residents that receive service and there are 8 clients that are served under title XX program. Mr. Davidson stated that it appears to be a contribution verses a bill. The selectmen have approved to give the contribution. They help homebound and disabled people with food. Since they stop in once a day this also provides for a check on the peoples safety which is why this is under welfare verses health. Call the question. 5 in favor; 2 opposed; motion carries.

Motion to approve Item 41660 Welfare General Assistance for \$52,300 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that the actual is down \$10,000 from last year. There is a welfare office that oversees and minimizes the support.

Motion was made to amend the Welfare General Assistance to \$45,000 was made by Mr. Davidson; seconded by Mr. Dailey; Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre approved the amendment; Call the Question: 6 in favor 1 opposed, motion carries. Call the Question for \$45,000; 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

4. Other Business – none

5. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on January 30, 2014 at 7:00 at the Wilton Town Hall.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Pucciarello and seconded by Mr. Davidson; all in favor. The Budget Committee was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary