

# TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES January 30, 2014

*Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chair, Don Davidson, Vice Chair, Betsy Castro, Harry Dailey (late 7:50), Joyce Fisk, Donna Pucciarello, Joe Torre, Bill Condra, Selectmen Rep., and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary*

- 1. Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.**
- 2. Review and approve January 23, 2014 Minutes**

**Motion was made by Ms. Castro to approve the minutes as amended: Seconded by Ms. Sullivan; Amended as follows:**

**Page 2 line 17 add according to Dr. Tyrie at the end of the sentence.**

**Page 2 line 25 take out the word "the" before increase taxes**

**Page 3 line 31 misspelling of do diligence**

**Page 4 line 34 change support with sponsor**

**Call the Question: 7 in favor; 1 abstention; motion carries**

- 3. Review and Approval January 25, 2014 Minutes**

**Motion was made by Ms. Castro to approve the minutes as amended:**

**Seconded by Mr. Davidson; Amended as follows:**

**Page 4 line 12 change Mac to MACC**

**Page 4 line 36 add an "s" to year**

**Page 4 line 37 change come to came**

**Call the Question: 8 in favor; motion carries**

- 4. Public Comments**

The Main Street President David McBee came to present an exciting update of Main Street Association. They are turning a new page, talking with people who have pent up excitement of what they can do for the Town. They have now hired a new associate that has a terrific amount of experience at the State and National level along with being part of Team Jaffrey. Mr. McBee introduced Paula Kuja.

Ms. Kuja thanked the Town for supporting the Main Street Association. Since the Town of Wilton's Main Street Association began in 1998 there has been a cycle of peaks and declines which is similar to other Towns across New Hampshire. They are entering into a fresh new phase of development; rebuilding the 4 committees. There are also changes at the National level also. They are working on raising as much money as possible. The first question asked when applying for grants is; has your Town invested in your organization. The money from the Town will be used as seed money to move forward to get more contributions.

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

**5. Budget Changes**

**Sanitation & Water Budget:**

Ms. Tuomala explained that an extra \$5,000 had been added to the Contract Services Line which has been taken out reducing the budget to \$280,862.

*Motion to re-approve the Municipal Sewer Budget for \$280,862 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.*

**General Government:**

Mr. Davidson stated that he would like to keep the FICA tabled until the end to determine if there are any other changes to the wage lines.

The police retirement needs to be recalculated and the amount of the employers contribution to the amount of \$119,926. Ms. Tuomala explained that the amount of \$65,000 was a typographic error which should have been \$97,000. An incorrect percentage rate was used when first calculated creating the difference between the originally approved \$125,614.

*Motion to re-approve the Employer portion of the Police State Retirement for \$119,926 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.*

Ms. Tuomala explained that the Workers Comp has been reduced as due to part of the amount has been put into the individual budget of Ambulance, Recycling and Water leaving on \$26,616.

*Motion to re-approve the Workers Comp. for \$26,616 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.*

Ms. Tuomala explained that the Liability Insurance has been increased since the only amount placed into an individual budget was Ambulance, this leaves an amount of \$42,225 instead of the original \$40,999.

*Motion to re-approve the Liability Insurance for \$42,225 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.*

**6. Finalize Remaining Budgets**

**Culture & Recreation:**

*Motion to approve Item 41670 Parks & Playgrounds for \$17,600 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted to understand why the actual budget for 2013 was almost \$7,000 lower than the budget. Mr. Elliott explained that they did not get to the installation of the well tiles and stone work along with dredging out the pond in order to get a better water supply. Mr. Davidson stated that the largest reduction was in the equipment line. This was for the used truck and the monies were all taken out of the*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

*cemeteries budget instead. Mr. Elliott would like the monies to remain so that he is able to do the work this year. He stated that the equipment line should be labeled as irrigation instead. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Item 41710 Library for \$239,477 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted to know why this budget increase so much. It has been increased due to the addition of the tree removal for \$2,000, chimney repair for \$3,300 and the roof repairs for \$9,999 which Mr. Davidson had requested. They also asked to have the technology line back in for \$2,400. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Item 41730 Memorial Day for \$750 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Item 41680 W-L Youth Center/Goss Park for \$19,190 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson wanted an explanation for the increased budget. It is due to the dredging, which they had previously had done for free will now cost the Park. They have been down members, lessons were down due to poor weather, a new life guard needs to be added as there is a new station; they are also painting the building. Call the Question; All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Item 41750 Conservation Commission for \$3,500 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that the actual was only \$1,600 so why is \$3,500 requested. They are going to do brush clearing on the dam; upgrade of culverts and place more signs. Mr. Hughes stated that in the 5 year average report they have spent on average \$2,863. Mr. Davidson stated that we can't continue to grow the bottom line and need to cut from those areas that are not providing services such as fire, police and ambulance.*

*Motion was made by Mr. Davidson to amend the amount to \$2,000; seconded by Ms. Pucciarello; Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Mr. Davidson explained that we should try to keep it close to what it's been; not to take away from area that provide services to the townspeople that would have a greater impact on the community. Call the question on the amendment: 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained; motion carries. Vote on the amended amount of \$2,000; 4 in favor; 3 opposed; 1 abstention.*

*Motion to approve Item 41760 Conservation Commission Acquisition Fund for \$ 20,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson motioned to amend this budget to \$1; Second by Ms. Pucciarello; Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre; Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that \$1 will still allow this budget to be brought up on the floor with a chance to fund it to \$20,000 even though it is in the operating budget and not a warrant. Call the Question: 6 approve; 2 opposed; motion carries. Call the Question for the amended amount of \$1; 6 in favor; 2 opposed; motion carries.*

*Motion to approve Item 41740 Heritage Commission for \$700 was made by Ms. Castro seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson made an amended motion to lower it to \$1; seconded by Ms. Pucciarello. Discussion: Mr. Stan Young stated that this is a very small amount and you are telling the people that put time and effort into the Heritage Commission that we don't want a Heritage Commission. They work hard to keep it at \$700 and they have a couple of late bills coming that would bring last year's budget close to the \$700. Call the*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

*Question: 2 in favor; 6 opposed; motion fails. Call the Question for the original \$700; 6 in favor and 2 opposed. Motion Carries.*

*Motion to approve Item 41720 Main Street Association for \$10,000 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson made a motion to amend this amount to \$0; seconded by Ms. Pucciarello; Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Discussion; Mr. Davidson stated that when we started working with the Main Street Association 15 years ago they came in asking only for seed money stating that they would eventually be self-sufficient. They should be able to stand on their own feet and not continue to be subsidized by the taxpayers. Chairman Hughes recognized Ms. Kuja who stated that they need the \$10,000 as seed money. She can't account for what was said 15 years ago. Whoever said that was ill informed. The way it works is that a third of the funding is supplied by the Town and the other two thirds come from private donations. The total of \$30,000 is good faith to improve the town and to take it to the next level, they are having an impact on the Town. They will be back every year from here on out asking for support.*

*Mr. Davidson feels that this should be supported by public donations and shouldn't be forced in their tax rate. Chairman Hughes asked for clarification on grants from others and does the Town have to be participating in order to receive the grants. Ms. Kuja stated that it depends on the grant; some grants are affected by not receiving support from the Town. Dave McBee stated that the beneficiary is the Town of Wilton as they help with things that the town can't produce effectively. Such as the farmers market; repairing of benches and the summer time concerts. Asking for \$10,000 little dollars to parlay this into 3 to 4 times. The town is the Main Street Associations biggest partnership. Mr. Davidson asked if they get donations from citizens of Wilton. Since they do why can't they say that the people of the town support it. Mr. Davidson also asked whether the selectmen have endorsed this. Mr. Condra stated that it hasn't been presented to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Condra stated that the Board has been supportive of activates in the past but he is only one and is not going to state for the record how the whole board might vote. Call the question on the amendment to zero funding; 1 in favor; 6 opposed; 1 abstained; Mr. Torre made a motion to amend the amount to \$5,000; seconded by Mr. Davidson; 5 in favor; 3 abstained; motion carried.*

*Call the Question for the amended motion of \$5,000. All in favor; Motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Wilton Community Center for \$1,500 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson made a motion to amend this to \$1; seconded by Ms. Pucciarello; Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Chairman Hughes recognized Donna Crane president the Wilton Community Center who stated that at the last town meeting they had accepted the potential of a Community Center at the Catholic Church and then the budget for the Church wasn't passed. The group has met for the past 2 years. They are now working with Second Congregational Church to offer programs there. This is an extremely committed group of people but they need money to run the events. \$1,500 is not a lot of money to provide the town with various much needed programs such as adult education. So many needs haven't been being met. They feel that this is a modest request so that they do not have to fund this out of our own pockets; they do intend to become self-sustaining in the future but they need the help right now. They need to have the town support in order to raise money; right now they have nothing and until they have something to show they can't raise money. Chairman Hughes explained that the amount can be raised on the floor. Call the question: 5 in favor; 4 opposed; amendment carries; Call the question for \$1; 6 in favor 3 opposed; motion carries.*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

**Debt Service:**

*Motion to approve the Fire Station Addition Debt Service Payment for \$70,653 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

**Public Safety:**

*Motion to approve Item 41400 Police Department for \$647,059 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that the Chief has made a case for the need to increase the wages which will be done in a 2 year step. This salary request is driven by the fact we need to retain our officers thus minimizing the training costs. There is concern over the mandated employer contribution. The actuals came in lower than the amount approved in 2013. Chief Hautanen explained that there was a reduction in the wage line since there was an officer hurt on the job and was out for 3 months and was paid for out of disability insurance. Five of his officers didn't take any sick time and many of them didn't use all of their vacation time. He won't spend it if he doesn't need to spend it. The Chief also didn't get the year end numbers so he didn't know how much he had left and put off several purchases. Mr. Torre stated we are once again trying to play catchup. Mr. Dailey stated that he reviewed several neighboring towns and we will be in the middle of the pack instead of at the lower end of the pack. Chief Hautanen stated if we make the leap this year to get onto the scale it will then be smaller bites in the future and not these large increases. He doesn't like asking for such large increased. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve Item 41390 the Police Station Building for \$18,645 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Chief Hautanen stated that he didn't have the furnaces cleaned last year and it was just done this week. We had a warm year last year therefore using less oil plus there was more insulation and they are getting more efficiency in heating and air conditioning. There are 2 furnaces with the second one behind the water heater which needs to be disconnected to get to it. The generator also runs once a week off the buried propane tank. The extra \$1,000 is to paint the trim and service the air conditioners to get better efficiency. Mr. Davidson amended the motion to \$17,645. Ms. Pucciarello seconded: Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre; Call the Question on the amendment: 7 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstained; motion carries. Call the Question for \$17,645: all in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

**Highways & Streets:**

Ms. Tuomala stepping down from Highway Maintenance Budget due to a conflict. Ms. Sullivan recording the minutes.

*Motion to approve Item 41470 Highway Maintenance for \$509,275 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson asks what the storm water of \$75,000 is for. This is a Federal mandate by EPA under 1971 Clean Water Act. In 2013, Wilton was called in under this unfunded mandate; there is no waiver to put this off any longer. The town is 196 people over the population limit within the downtown area which puts us in the eye of the EPA. This is a 5 year plan, we will need to play catch up for the last 10 years as well as plan for the next 5 years. We need to map all our rivers and test all our water. If we fail we have a period of time to come up to compliance (i.e. cleaning catch basins, streets, etc.), it could be up to \$40,000/day as penalty for non-compliance. The cost for all the work that needs to be done in the next 5 years has been calculated and allocated across the next 5 years.*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

*Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

Ms. Tuomala returns to the Board.

*Motion to approve Item 41490 Resurfacing for \$ 384,500 was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Elliott explained that the due to an issue with the vote at Town Meeting last year the \$50,000 came out of this budget to repair the bridge on Old County Farm Road. The sewer project started later and went much later than anticipated therefore they were rushing and ended up behind what they had hoped to get done. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

**Capital Outlay:**

It was discussed and decided that the Committee would recommend or not recommend the warrant articles during the Public Hearing next week instead of tonight.

*Motion to approve the purchase of a Highway Department Pickup Truck with Plow for \$37,000 monies to be raised by taxation was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Davidson stated that there are a large number of ticket items this year. There are 2 requests from the Highway Department. He questioned the mileage on each and asked if only one could be purchased which one would that be. Mr. Elliott stated that would be the request for the 6 wheeler. Call the Question: 7 in favor; 2 opposed; motion carries.*

*Motion to approve the purchase of a Highway Department 6 Wheel Dump/Salt/Plow Truck for \$175,760 and the withdrawal of \$75,000 to come out of the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of \$100,760 is to be raised by taxation was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Dailey questioned the amount. Call the Question: All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion to approve the purchase the replacement of a Fire Rescue Truck for \$425,000 and withdrawing \$383,800 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Torre. Chief Dick explained that in order to get the current rescue truck inspected last year they had to weld the frame, and the repair man said to unload ASAP. When asked if he had to live with it for another year how much would it cost to keep it running and the chief stated about \$50,000. The Chief stated that he is developing a plan to come up with 2 good trucks and only purchase one instead of two. Call the question. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion was made to repair/replace the Library Balustrades for \$13,250 was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Torre. Call the Question; all in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion was made to replace the 2001 Ambulance for \$207,586 was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion; Chief Zirpolo stated that the ambulance now has 115,000 miles on it and it was used as the primary vehicle for 8 years of it's life. Call the Question; All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

*Motion was made to rebuild the Frye Mill Road Bridge for \$80,000 was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Torre. Mr. Elliott stated that he had originally requested*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

*\$50,000 to be placed into Capital Bridge Reserve Fund. Last year we refurbished the one on Old County Farm Road for \$50,000. Mr. Harley Savage (owner of Frye's Measure Mill) asked for the replacement again this year. Last year they had gotten a quote for \$68,000 to replace the bridge. This bridge is the only way in and out for the historic Building and business and for 2 other homes. Therefore they will need to place a walking bridge in order to get people over the brook. Mr. Elliott stated that he plans on doing more abutment work to make it deeper and more secure. They will leave the existing abutments in place and build behind them. It has been on the State red Bridge list and is scheduled to be replaced in 2022. This is a matter of safety and the bridge won't make it until then as it already has holes in its deck; it is also listed as a 10 ton bridge therefore people visiting the mill in a bus have to walk in.*

*The state requires each bridge to have 20% of the cost of replacement in the reserves. In 2007, the amount was \$63,000 and it will be up to \$94,000 in 2022. We can replace it now without even using the entire amount of our portion of the bridge replacement. There was discussion about taking the \$80,000 out of the Bridge Repair Capital Reserve. The bridge over Stage Coach is another bridge and it will take more than we have in the account; it is scheduled to be done in 2016. The King Brook bridge is an old stone culvert and will take a lot more money than the Town has right now. The State Aide isn't coming any time soon. There is rational to keep the money in so we don't raise all of the money every year. There isn't enough money in the account to do either of the other two bridges. If we take the \$80,000 out of the fund this year then it could be replaced next year.*

*The motion was amended by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Pucciarello. Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Call the amended question to take the \$80,000 out of the bridge replacement out of the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund; all in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

Chairman Hughes asked if the Committee can stay late and not come back on Saturday. Chairman Hughes then steps down due to a conflict, Vice Chair Davidson takes over.

*A motion was made to purchase raise and appropriate \$80,000 for the purpose of acquiring an interest in the conservation land was made by Ms. Castro and seconded by Mr. Torre. Discussion: Mr. Condra stated that we are being asked to participate in a fund raising for a conservation easement and the easement won't be held by the Town of Wilton. This appears to be an effort to avoid Capital Gains on a significant amount of money and the taxpayers will have spent \$80,000 out of their pockets.*

*Motion was made to amend the amount to zero was made by Mr. Dailey, seconded by Ms. Sullivan; Approved by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Discussion:*

*Ian McSweeney stated the \$80,00 is only a 4.89% of the overall cost of the project. The Town would hold certain rights and there would be another person holding some rights also. There have been discussions about the percentage of land that is already in conservation, numbers were taken from our own town website. This land is ranked the highest for contiguous non-conserved land. On the Planning Board web site the NRI plan was adopted by the Conservation Commission. In 2005 the Town supported this as a 1.5 million dollar project and voted 198 to 16. They are now asking for only \$80,000 a fraction of the original cost. The Town will have the rights but will not be responsible for enforcing the rights and without the liability.*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

*Mr. Torre asked if the Conservation Commission could use the amount that is in their conservation fund. That money has probably been allocated to other projects.*

*Mr. Stan Young stated that this is a golden opportunity and this time so that it can be secured. If the offer isn't taken at this time then it will be gone and we will never get it back again.*

*Mr. Davidson said that there are concerns looking at the outlay of \$80,000 of taxpayer's money that may or may not be re-cooped. In 20 years we will get the \$80,000 back, but the school has decreased significantly that won't require different rooms and expenses at our schools. Some other organizations have already raised over \$130,000 and are not relying on taxpayers. There was a point of clarification that the amount wasn't to exceed \$80,000. This should be enhanced not to exceed this amount. If this is amended to zero then this wouldn't be on the warrant and the public couldn't debate this.*

*Mr. McSweeney stated that High Mowing has given and given to show their support. They have applied and were rejected by the State LCHIP program due in part to the lack of support by the Town. The housing stock and demographics change all the time and over the years. There will be a change in the next 10 years as our population continues to age and the housing stock increases there will be others that will come into Town. Look towards the long term future rather than just today.*

*Mike Anderson spoke about coming here 27 years ago and his driving into Town and up Gage Road realizing that this area has one of the most beautiful areas around. John Griffith stated that the Town in the past has voted overwhelmingly to support conservation projects.*

*Mr. Torre stated that it is concerning that the Conservation Commission hasn't put in any of their funds. If they are supporting this but they aren't helping to fund it. Mr. McSweeney stated that if the project doesn't go forward then the money won't be spent. This money will help them in seeking other funds. Mr. Dailey is concerned about the legal aspects. There was a question whether the Selectmen have recommended this or not but it hasn't been presented to the Selectmen. Stan Young stated that he does pay taxes on land that has easements on them.*

*Call the question for the amendment to zero dollars. 3 in favor; 5 opposed; motion failed. Mr. Sullivan amended the amount to one dollar, seconded by Ms. Pucciarello. Supported by Ms. Castro and Mr. Torre. Called the Question for an amended amount of \$1: 7 in favor; 1 opposed; motion passes. Call the Question for \$1; 7 in favor; 1 opposed; motion passes.*

Chairman Hughes returns to the board.

**Capital Reserve Funds:**

*Motion to approve \$27,000 to be put in the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was made by Ms. Castro, seconded by Mr. Torre. All in favor; motion carries unanimously.*

**TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2014**

**7. Other Business**

We will vote on any items that need to be completed at the beginning of the Public Hearing, such as the FICA. A motion to recommend or not to recommend will be done after each warrant is read, the Public has given their input and the board has any further discussion.

**8. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be the Public Hearing on February 4, 2014 at 7:00 at the Wilton Town Hall.

***A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Ms. Sullivan; all in favor. The Budget Committee was adjourned at 9:25 PM.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary