

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

FINAL MEETING MINUTES March 24, 2016

Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chairman; Harry Dailey; Donna Pucciarello; William Condra, Selectmen Rep.; and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary

- 1. Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.**
- 2. Swearing in of Members** – Moderator William Keefe swore in Cary Hughes & Donna Pucciarello as members of the Wilton Budget Committee for a term of 3 years each.
- 3. Review and Approval of February 16, 2016 Minutes**

Motion was made by Mr. Dailey to accept the minutes of February 16, 2016 as written; seconded by Ms. Pucciarello; 3 in favor; 1 abstained (Dawn Tuomala); motion passes.

- 4. Public Comments - none**
- 5. Review 2016 Expenditures to date**

Mr. Dailey asked about the present procedure in regards to fuel oil fill ups, especially at the end of the year. He wants to make sure if there is money left in the line item at the end of the year that the Selectmen have the tanks filled so that they can begin the new year with a full tank.

The Supervisor of the Check List will be going into meet with the Selectmen on Monday night as they will be going over their budget. There are more elections this year than what was anticipated.

There were questions regarding the Police Sick Time Labor Line since it is already over budget. The Chief had been out for 2 weeks but this should not have come out of this line item. This question will be brought up to the Selectmen's office.

There are annual insurance amounts that are appearing over the budget. There are amounts that will have to be distributed to various departments. This is usually done all at one time at the end of the year.

The Sewer Commissioners recently had a joint meeting with the Selectmen working out the details of the audit. They are only going to go back 8 years to 2008. The fees will only be hundreds of dollars and not thousands, which will be split between them. There was a question whether the Sewer Department set aside the \$50,000 that they wanted to do. They are in the

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2016

process of setting up a separate account to keep the rate payers payments separate from the general funds.

The Water, Sewer and Library are all backed and funded by the Town; they can't get a bond without the Town approval but yet we do not have a complete understanding of their financial standings.

The Water Works has set up 3 Capital Funding accounts that they put unexpended funds into at the end of each year. They have recently set up a new Capital Reserve account to handle a catastrophic event; such as the pump that had to be rebuilt last year. The water tank needs to be periodically drained and painted on the interior about every 10 to 15 years. The life of the tank is expected to be about 50 years. The new account is a result of an audit from the Water Works above ground infrastructure that states that they should have a million dollars in reserve. They have discovered an extra Capital Reserve account with \$42,000 in it that has just been sitting with the Trustees of the Trust Funds. They are going to use that to start the account. They have also gone through a rate increase but instead of going for the total increase of \$92,000 they have reduced the increase to \$72,000. This will help to grow the new Capital Reserve account. Even with the 30% rate increase we are still the lowest water rate payers in the State of New Hampshire.

The Town of Wilton is in the top 10% of the State per capita for supporting the Library. The taxpayers pay a large portion of the Libraries expenses but we don't have any visibility about how the money is spent. The Budget Committee will request a quarterly income and expense report from the Library so that there will be more visibility.

There are several of the small donations accounts that need to have their budget amounts reviewed.

6. Discussion on Town Meeting

a. Changes for Town Meeting Next Year & Educating the Public

A presentation had been prepared educating the tax payers but before it could be presented groups of people interrupted the process by making increases to the budget thus rendering the presentation outdated. Chairman Hughes would like to be able to give a presentation of the operating budget to the public before the warrant presentation begins. The hope is to better educate the people with how each article will impact their taxes.

Ms. Pucciarello would like to see more discussion, maybe on the slides, about why the Budget Committee and the Selectmen have voted to recommend or not recommend each article. This is important on those articles where the committee votes one way and the Selectmen vote the other way.

There was also discussion about incorporating the vote count for each warrant article on the warrant itself as many of them are not unanimous. The recommending or not recommending is only a consensus of the board. This should be discussed with DRA next year to see if they will allow this. There was more discussion was around whether to have the operating budget first or last on the list. The Department Heads should also be seated up front to be able to better answer questions about their particular items.

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2016

7. Set up Future Meeting Schedule

The members present decided that the Budget Committee should meet once a month from now on. The extra time will be spent reviewing monthly budget numbers, watching the increasing trends over past years. Comparisons with similar sized towns will be done to see how and where tax payer monies can be saved. Ms. Pucciarello has already started this process by reviewing several Towns that are about the same in population and town evaluations. She has begun by reviewing Canterbury, who's taxes are only \$2.1 million verses our almost \$5 million. She will bring those comparisons for the meeting next month.

Mr. Dailey would like to have a review done of all of the Fire and Highway equipment, and whether or not we need all of the pieces or can we do without something. Reviews should also be done to determine the length of time a vehicle should be used such as a police cruiser or an ambulance. Are we purchasing them too soon or not soon enough.

The next meetings will be on April 28th, May 26th and June 30th. There will be several people absent during July and August, no dates have been set up for these meetings.

8. Other Business

The Budget Committee members need to have their own Town email accounts. This will be brought up to the Selectmen at their next meeting.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on April 28, 2016 (unless otherwise posted) at 7:00 at the Wilton Town Hall.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Dailey and seconded by Mr. Condra; all in favor. The Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary