

**TOWN OF WILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 16th, 2017, TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Moderator William Keefe began the 255th Town Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 16th at the Florence Rideout Elementary School. After welcoming everyone he started the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Jane Alsfeld Rasmussen. Jane had been Wilton's Librarian for 28 years. She will be missed by all.

He noted that the Town, School & Zoning Election was postponed due to heavy snowfall. The original date had been Tuesday March 14th, 2017, and the new date was set for Tuesday March 21st, 2017. (Note: March 21st, 2017, election results follow these minutes).

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million one hundred one thousand three hundred twenty-three dollars (\$5,101,323) for the general municipal operation for the year 2017 or to take any other action relating thereto. Said sum does not include any of the special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Kermit Williams.

Town Administrator Scott Butcher explained that some of the monies were to upgrade the website, bring software licensing up to compliance and convert all town departments from a ".org" to the federally mandated ".gov" email system. The current ".org" system doesn't allow for the required archiving of all public correspondence.

Selectman Kermit Williams said the upgrades would also allow for the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's office to use credit cards and not have someone in China use you card next week.

Steve Elliott, Road Agent, explained the highway budget had increased due to the new grader costs. The old grader had broken down, again, and was deemed to not be cost effective to repair. The town had entered into a lease agreement of three forty-three thousand dollar payments (\$43,000). Once these monies were paid the town would then own the equipment.

Kellie-Sue Boissionnault asked what would be the impact of the increased operating budget on the tax rate. Cary Hughes explained it would be .27 per thousand cost.

Following more discussion from the floor Article 3 was voice vote approved.

4. To see if the Town will vote adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse of any resident, who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the

United States and was honorably discharged, or an officer honorably separated from services, and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$350.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Alexis Pittman.

Kermit Williams explained our current Veterans Tax Credit only applied to those who served during a qualifying wartime period. This article, if approved, would give the \$350 tax credit to all veterans, or their spouses, who served their country for more than 90 days active service and who were honorably discharged.

Following this explanation Article 4 was voice vote approved.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars (\$42,450.00) to develop a public river walk park by the Police Station, the monies to be withdrawn from the Cooley Park Capital Reserve Fund, or to take any other action thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Jennifer Beck, Chairman of the Economic Development Leadership Team, gave a detailed presentation explaining that this article was one of three that would be addressed this evening. She stated that they each were related to one of our goals – to find ways to put a lid on our rising property taxes and by attracting new sources of revenue. Attracting new business will help bring in more revenue, but also bring in additional services that residents have said they want.

She explained that no new additional tax dollars would be needed for the river walk. The project was on land already owned by the town, and the money was to come from the Cooley Park Capital Reserve Fund. The Cooley Park Capital Reserve Fund currently had a balance of eight five thousand nine hundred dollars (\$85,900). The voters were being asked to approve using forty two thousand dollars (\$42,000). Jennifer further explained that no current parking spaces would be affected and there would be no additional costs for ongoing maintenance. Besides helping to protect the river and our towns people this article would restore what had been in place in the 1970's.

Kermit Williams explained that the original intent was to use the Cooley Park Capital Reserve Fund monies. In later consideration, and to avoid any problems with changing the use of a capital reserve fund he moved to amend the article to read "....the monies to come from the unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised

from taxation, or take any other action thereto". His motion to amend the article was seconded and passed.

Following several more minutes of discussion the Moderator then read the article, as amended:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars (\$42,450.00) to develop a public river walk park by the Police Station, the monies to come from the unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation, or take any other action thereto". The article, as amended, was voice vote approved.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000) for the purchase of a used fire department ladder truck and ancillary equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Fire Department Vehicle Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Fire Chief Jim Cutler explained that this article would replace the 1980 ladder truck that was bought used 16 years ago for eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000). Repairs were becoming increasingly more difficult because the needed parts were not available. The old truck had basically outlived its usefulness. He stated a new ladder truck would cost eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000). This new, used, truck had been thoroughly examined and would come with a one year warranty on the engine.

Following this discussion the article was voice vote approved.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the Wilton Town Hall North End Project to rehabilitate the north end of the building including but not limited to life and safety improvements and the installation of a building-wide fire alarm system in Town Hall, and to authorize the withdrawal of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the Town Hall Repair Project Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of two hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000) to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello. Moderator Bill Keefe explained that the vote on this article would be by paper ballot.

Alison Meltzer explained the scope of the work included desperately needed repairs to address health and safety concerns. Work would involve insulation, vapor barriers, mold mitigation, and a building-wide fire alarm system. Her firm, Scully Architects, had extensively examined the project and projected that two hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000) was a maximum guarantee for everything except the fire alarm system. The article's total request, three hundred dollars (\$300,000), included twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the fire alarm system.

Further discussion included questions involving heat pumps, fire alarm systems, and sprinkler systems, structural internal walls and the announcement that our Town Administrator, Scott Butcher, would be overseeing the project.

Following more discussion the Moderator reminded voters that this would be a paper ballot vote. He suggested while votes were being cast that attendees were encouraged to support the bake sale in the back of the room.

While ballots were being cast on Article 7, Kermit Williams recognized Doreece Miller for her long time work in the Town Clerk's office. She began as an assistant in 2000 and became Deputy Clerk & Deputy Collector in 2008. He noted her diligent work over the years on the town's original website and on its current site. She retired at the end of December 2016. While she has no doubt enjoyed her retirement she has been missed. In appreciation the Board recognized her work with a plaque and offered their thanks for all her efforts. Flowers were also given by all in the Clerk's office as their thanks for her years of dedication.

Following the 10 minute break the Moderator resumed the meeting by noting the results of the paper ballots. Article 7 was approved by a 122 to 29 ballot vote.

8. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of providing ambulance service as per RSA 153-A. All revenues received for the Ambulance Service from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. Funds may be used for providing ambulance services. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams spoke to say the establishment of the Revolving Fund for the Ambulance Service was similar to what had already been done for the Recycling Center last year. The Revolving Fund would help manage cost and revenue.

Following several more points of discussion the article was voice vote approved.

9. To see if the Town will vote to hold a design charrette, a planning workshop for the future of Wilton, involving Wilton residents and professionals from Plan NH and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) for this purpose. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Jennifer Beck spoke with passion about what a “design charrette” could mean to Wilton. She explained that the key understanding of “economic developments isn’t necessarily about making something bigger – just better.” “A design charrette - an intensive planning session that lasts a couple days - allows citizens, designers, architects, landscapers, economic development specialists, and small town planners to be involved in discussing the challenges we face and coming up with some creative solutions”. The \$7,000 will bring in \$50-80,000 worth of professional services. These funds will bring in a team of professionals. They will conduct public sessions where they listen to what we say. They will then come back with their drawings and recommendations. Suggestions could range from suggesting zoning changes, creative use of existing buildings, parking improvements etc. The important end result is their ideas reflect the needs and desires of our residents and business owners. And that these plans serve as a framework as we identify future projects.

Other points noted were that Wilton’s application to the program had been accepted on February 23, 2017, and if the voters approve the article the Nashua Regional Planning Commission has agreed to give us impact studies, cost analysis, feasibility studies and an implementation plan at no cost.

Following further discussion the article, as written, was voice vote approved.

10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to adopt the provisions of Chapter 79-E, Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, which allows an owner of a qualifying structure who intends to substantially rehabilitate or replace such structure, to apply to the governing body of the municipality in which the property is located for tax relief. If approved, the property tax on a qualifying structure which has been substantially upgraded and improved at the owner’s expense will not increase as a result of the substantial rehabilitation for up to 3 years, beginning with the completion of the substantial rehabilitation. (Majority vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Jennifer Beck explained that there is “a state statute that enables towns to encourage restoration and upgrades to structures within a designated area. The goal is to drive economic and social activity, preserve cultural and historical character, create a sense of community, and to upgrade in-town residential properties that contribute to economic and social vitality.” The article, if approved, “allows the Select Board another tool to help encourage property owners to make necessary investments that enhance our downtown.”

A qualifying structure’s improvement would not be taxed for its increased value for three years. At the end of the three years the property would then be taxed at its market value.

Following more discussion the article, as written, was voice vote approved.

11. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of installing a new heating system in the Wilton Town Hall and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Discussion ensued explaining the heating system was quite old and would need replacing in the near future. Bill Condra implored voters to support this article. Kermit Williams explained that the type of system had not yet been determined. An earlier plan was to install a pellet system but site logistics made that option difficult to implement.

Following these discussions the article was voice vote approved.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$30,250) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Hearing no questions from the floor the Moderator reread the article as written. The article was voice vote approved.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Again hearing no questions or comments the Moderator reread the article as written. The article was then voice vote approved.

14. To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a new Public Works Garage, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this fund. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Public Works Director Steve Elliott explained that the current four bay, wood heated structure was built in 1956. Article 14 is part of a long range, 10 year plan to either reconstruct the existing building or relocate the Highway Garage.

Following these explanations the article was voice vote approved.

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to be added to the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Steve Elliott explained that in order to receive State matching funds towns were required to contribute 20% of a bridge's cost. After these comments the article, as written, was voice vote approved.

16. To see if the Town will vote to accept the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) to be added to the Library Renovations & Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from the Library's Operating Account, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following comments from Library Trustee Chairman Ronald Brown and hearing no questions or comments from the floor the Moderator reread the article as written. The article was then voice vote approved.

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Hearing no questions or comments from the floor the Moderator asked for a vote on the article. The article as written was approved by a voice vote.

18. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Wilton, we urge that the town institute the following measures:

Article 1: In order to ensure that Wilton is a safe and welcoming community for all, employees of the Town of Wilton shall not enquire about, report, or act upon any person's immigration status under any circumstances while performing their duties.

(By Petition.)

The Moderator noted that this was an advisory only article and that his intent was to let residents speak to the article if that was the decision of the voters.

Sadie Zavgren spoke earnestly, and at length, about her strong belief in this issue. Following Sadie's comments and multiple comments from the floor, Jerry Greene moved to table the article. The motion to table was seconded by Mary Guild.

After vigorous discussion a voice vote on the motion to table was conducted. The Moderator ruled that the motion to table has been defeated. However in response from the floor a request for a standing vote was conducted and the motion to table was defeated.

After further discussion and a reminder from the Moderator that his article could be advisory only, the petitioned article as written was approved by a voice vote.

19. Article 2: The Town of Wilton affirms its commitment to the rights ensured by the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America and declares that in the town of Wilton no person shall be required to declare their religious or philosophical belief or affiliation, nor to sign a registry for any belief or affiliation.

(By Petition.)

The article was moved by Paul Levesque and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following brief comments Jerry Greene requested to move the question. The request to move was seconded by Mary Guild. The article was approved by a voice vote.

20. To accept the report of Agents, Auditors and Committees or Officers heretofore chosen to pass any vote relating thereto.

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Hearing no discussion the article was voice vote approved

21. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Kelly Eshback.

Kermit Williams stated this discussion was to see if the voters wanted to save the "new reservoir" located on Sand Hill Road. He explained the dam, built in 1933, had supplied municipal water until the 1980's when water quality issues forced the town to replace the reservoir water with wells. The dam's structural integrity is diminishing and the town is faced with the following three options:

Fixing the retaining wall for approximately one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), lower the water level by about half of its current level, or breach the wall entirely and eliminate the dam altogether.

While no decision would be made at this meeting the Select Board wanted to hear from the voters what they thought about this situation. Any actual vote would be brought to the voters at next year's town meeting.

Voters spoke earnestly in favor of retaining the reservoir as it is and, most importantly, opening up the area for all to use and enjoy.

Following these discussions a motion to adjourn was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Cary Hughes. The meeting was concluded at 10:10 PM.

TOWN OF WILTON NH
MARCH 21ST, 2017 ELECTION RESULTS

1. To choose the necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. (By ballot)

Moderator William Keefe opened the polls at the Wilton Town Hall at 8:00 AM for the purpose of voting for Town Officers, Zoning and School Officers. The polls closed at 7:00 PM. From a voter checklist of 2738 registered voters the following votes were cast with various write-ins omitted: 224 votes, including 18 absentee ballots.

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|--|------|
| Selectmen – 3 year term | |
| Kermit R. Williams | 171* |
| Selectman – 2 year term | |
| Kellie-Sue Boissonnault | 168* |
| Town Clerk – 3 year term | |
| Jane K. Farrell | 215* |
| Treasurer – 1 year term | |
| Jerry W. Greene (write-in) | 14* |
| Cemetery Trustee – 3 year term | |
| TBD | |
| Library Trustee- 3 year term | |
| Lynn R. Stone | 191* |
| Trustee of the Trust Fund – 3 year term | |
| David D. Miller | 194* |
| Trustee of the Trust Fund – 2 year term | |
| Virginia A. Day | 196* |
| Water Commissioner – 3 year term | |
| Thomas C. Schultz | 186* |
| Sewer Commissioner – 3 year term | |
| Michael S. Gerry | 83 |
| Tim G. Mortvedt | 93* |
| Planning Board – 3 year term – 2 positions | |
| Jeffrey A. Kandt | 169* |
| Matthew Fish (write-in) | 18* |

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance as Follows:

ADOPT a new zoning section 5.5 "Accessory Dwelling Units" to provide an opportunity for two family residences within the Town of Wilton consistent with community character and to comply with NH State law RSA 674:72. The purpose of the amendment is to allow this type of two-family dwellings in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings subject to certain requirements. The two dwelling units must have off street parking, an independent means of ingress and egress or through a common hallway, must share a common interior wall, and must satisfy setback requirements. One of the dwelling units must be the principal residence of the owner. At least one of the dwelling units must have no more than two bedrooms and a living area of no more than 800 square feet. This amendment includes special exceptions to allow for an additional 100 square feet of living area and a modification to the parking requirement if such restrictions are found to be unreasonable for the development.

AMEND Section 7.0 Commercial District: to exempt dwellings permitted under the new Section 5.5 from the Commercial District's Site Plan Review requirements.

The intent is to comply with NH State law, provide flexible housing options for residents and their families, and update for consistency with other Town ordinances.

Yes 170 No 52

Respectfully submitted,

Jane K. Farrell,
Town Clerk & Tax Collector