

**TOWN OF WILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 ELECTION RESULTS  
&  
MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

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 2711 registered voters, the following votes were cast with various write-ins omitted: 452 votes, including absentee ballots and 9 new voters.

Selectmen – 3 year term	
Matthew S. Fish	248*
Mary E. McDonough	198
Treasurer – 1 year term	
William H. Chalmers	295*
Ruth A. Smith	77
Moderator – 2 year term	
William J. Keefe	407*
Trustee of the Trust Fund – 3 year term	
James Lamar Smith	368*
Planning Board – 3 year term – 2 positions	
J. Alexander MacMartin, Jr.	315*
R. Neil Faiman	338*
Water Commissioner – 3 year term	
L. Frank Edelblut	332*
Sewer Commissioner – 3 year term	
Tracey E. Ewing	366*
Cemetery Trustee – 3 year term	
Mary Ann Shea	386*
Cemetery Trustee – 2 year term	
Lisa M. Gibbons	387*

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:

Amend existing Section 3.0 Definitions, Section 3.1.8 Family to delete existing definition, "One or more persons related by blood, marriage, legal adoption or those placed in the home for adoption, and foster children, or a group of not more than five persons (excluding no more than two servants) not related by blood or marriage, living together as a single non-profit housekeeping unit" and replace with "A group of individuals, whether or not related, living together in a dwelling unit in a structured relationship constituting an organized housekeeping unit."

The intent is to update the definition for modern times and be more inclusive of different types of familial structures.

Yes 296\* No 89

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

Amend existing Sections 5.0 Residential District and 7.0 Commercial District to standardize the language for religious uses between Section 5.3.3, Houses of worship and Section 7.1(j), Permitted Uses. Section 5.3.3 will be deleted and replaced with "Houses of Worship. Houses of worship including, but not limited to, churches, synagogues, parish houses, mosques, convents and other accessory uses subject to the following conditions:" Section 7.1(j), Permitted Uses will be amended to include the phrase "and other accessory uses."

The intent is to update for consistency within the Ordinance.

Yes 289\* No 89

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance as Follows:

Amend Section 11, Wetlands Conservation District, Section 11.5, Incorrectly Designated Zones by deleting "90 days" as the timeframe for the Planning Board to approve or disapprove the final plat once submitted and replacing it with "65 days" and adding the phrase "as amended" to the end of the last paragraph.

And

Amend Section 12, Aquifer Protection District, Section 12.6, Incorrectly Designated Zones by deleting "90 days" as the timeframe for the Planning Board to approve or disapprove the final plat once submitted and replacing it

with “65 days” and adding the phrase “as amended” to the end of the last paragraph.

The intent is to update the Ordinance to comply with NH State law.

Yes 326\* No 55

5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance as Follows:

Amend Section 25, Impact Fees, Section 25.2.2(b) by deleting the word “change” and replacing it with “increase.”

The intent is to clarify the Ordinance.

Yes 280\* No 92

6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Wilton Zoning Ordinance as Follows:

Amend Section 25, Impact Fees, Section 25.5.0.1.3 by deleting “four years” and replacing it with “time as determined by RSA 674:39, or five years in the event no time is specified in the statute.”

The intent is to update the Ordinance to comply with NH State Law.

Yes 302\* No 72

Moderator William Keefe began the 256th Town Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 15th at the Florence Rideout Elementary School. He welcomed everyone and started the meeting by noting the outcome of the Tuesday elections. He then began the Town Meeting by reading Article #7 as follows:

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of five million two hundred seventy eight thousand nine hundred sixty-nine dollars (\$5,278,969) for the general municipal operation for the year 2018, 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, seconded by Bill Condra. Budget Committee Chairman Cary Hughes presented an overview of the proposed budget.

Library Trustee Chairman, Ronald Brown, proposed an amendment to increase the Library budget line from two hundred sixty one thousand, three hundred twelve dollars (\$261,312) to two hundred seventy five thousand, eight hundred fifty one dollars and thirty three cents (\$275,851.33), an increase of fourteen thousand, five hundred thirty nine dollars and thirty three cents (\$14,539.33). The motion was seconded by Library Treasurer Molly Shanklin.

Molly explained that many discussions had taken place regarding how the Library presented their financial reporting. These questions led to multiple meetings with numerous groups including the Attorney General's office, the Selectmen, the Town Administrator, the Budget Committee, a professional bookkeeper and a State Representative. The time and hard work helped clear up misunderstandings and create cleaner reporting.

Because of the confusion from their prior reporting format, the Budget Committee mistakenly thought the Library had twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) unexpended monies from 2017. Molly elaborated that in 2016 the Library under-spent their appropriation by nine thousand, six hundred ninety seven dollars and eight six cents (\$9,697.86). In 2017 they over-spent the appropriation by four thousand, two hundred thirty seven dollars and nineteen cents (\$4,237.19). This then created a total remaining balance of five thousand, four hundred sixty dollars and sixty seven cents (\$5,460.67).

Due to this misunderstanding the Budget Committee had voted to reduce their 2018 appropriation by twenty thousand dollars. Molly explained the monies believed to be available were actually designated trust funds and could not be used for general operation. The Trustees were asking the voters to support their request to restore fourteen thousand, five hundred thirty nine dollars and thirty three cents (\$14,539.33).

Following this explanation the motion to amend was voice vote approved.

The Moderator than read the original article, as amended, as follows:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of five million two hundred ninety three thousand five hundred eight dollars and thirty three cents (\$5,293,508.33), as amended, for the general municipal operation for the year 2018, or to take any other action relating thereto. Said sum does not include any of the special or individual articles addressed."

The article, as amended, was voice vote approved.

8. To see if the Town will vote to establish a New Reservoir Dam Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the repair,

maintenance, or demolition of the New Reservoir Dam and related structures, and to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to put in the fund, and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said 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, seconded by Bill Condra.

Selectmen Kermit Williams explained this article was being presented this evening because of a “straw vote” taken during the 2017 Town Meeting that indicated the voters of Wilton would have interest in developing the ‘New Reservoir’ as a recreational area for the town.

Because of the positive interest a Committee had been formed to look at multiple possibilities for the site. Serving on the Committee were: Kermit Williams, Chair.; Ruth Smith, Vice-Chair.; Cheryl Williams, Chris Balch, Felice Fullam, Ralph Buschmann, Matt Fish, Bart Hunter, Robin Schoen, Alan Preston and Mike McGonegal. The Committee drew up conceptual plans examining access and parking, recreational area and overall site design. The plans included a graded access road leading to the recreational area; turn-around with loading / unloading; some additional parking - primarily for elderly, parent and handicap spaces as well as handicap access to the recreational area from the loop.

Intended activities included fishing, non–motorized boating, ice fishing, swimming, hiking and picnicking. ADA accessibility guidelines would be implemented to allow wheel chair access. The design plans were intended to open up the recreational usage of this beautiful area but have a minimal impact on the environment, including the wildlife. To achieve these goals the Committee proposed removing the chain link fence along the road; building a wood bridge to span the low area from the path to the peninsula; planting small but fast growing bushes to buffer/screen from the road, to name a few of the Committee’s recommendations.

Kermit explained the 1936 dam costs, whether to repair it, permanently lower the water level or to breach the dam were unknown. The known factor was the State’s threat to charge a penalty if no action was taken at all.

Ruth Smith followed these explanations with a motion to delete the words ...“or demolition”... from the article’s third line and to add “and any decision to demolish or lower water levels to only be conducted with a public hearing and a vote by warrant article at the March 2019 Town Meeting”. Ruth’s motion was seconded by Joe Torre.

Kermit Williams opposed the amendment's requirement that only via a vote at a Town Meeting could allow the dam to be lowered or demolished. A situation could arise necessitating the water level be lowered or the dam demolished that couldn't wait until the next Town Meeting.

Paul Levesque stated a point to be considered is that the reservoir may not necessarily be an asset but perhaps could be viewed as a liability.

Felice Fullum discussed the letter from the Department of Environmental Services regarding the dam's deficiencies. Jeff Stone, Conservation Commission member, stated that the ability to lower the dam would be necessary to do any proper assessment and/or repair. Bart Hunter felt the amendment was too open ended. Matt Fish said his company had worked with the highway department in 2008 clearing brush and he considered the area a great asset to Wilton.

The Moderator then read the article, as amended, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a New Reservoir Dam Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the repair or maintenance of the New Reservoir Dam and related structures, and to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to put in the fund, and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Further the decision to lower water levels to only be conducted with a public hearing and a vote by warrant article at the March 2019 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. The voice vote on the amendment does not pass.

The Moderator next reads Article #8 as originally written. Article #8 is voice vote approved.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of developing the New Reservoir as a public recreational area to include site work, parking, signage, and amenities such as benches. Monies 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, 2020 whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee does not recommend this article – Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moved by Felice Fullum, seconded by Jackie Kahle.

Kermit Williams detailed the plans for developing the area as a recreational area. The goal is to encourage Wilton residents to explore and enjoy this beautiful section of Wilton.

Discussion ensued supporting and opposing the project. Alex Loverme's concern was the ongoing cost beyond this current request; Jackie Kahle liked the concept but was concerned about the influx of non-Wilton residents; Alan Preston said management issues needed to be thought through; Fire Chief Jim Cutler voiced his concern that if the fencing was removed vehicles could unintentionally drive into the water.

Following further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote on the article as written. Paper ballot was required per a request by five voters. The results were as follows: yes votes were 36, no votes were 144. Article 9, as written, does not pass.

10. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Wilton:

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

TOWN OF WILTON

PETITION FOR ARTICLE FOR WARRANT

COMES NOW, twenty-five or more registered voters of the Town of Wilton and petition the Selectmen to insert in their warrant for the next meeting (in March, 2018) the following petitioned article, in accordance with RSA 39:3:

Article

WHEREAS, a warrant article has been proposed to raise and appropriate the sum of *monies*, ~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)~~ for the development of the New Reservoir as a public recreational area to include site work, parking, signage, and amenities such as benches, with monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action relating thereto, as a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, IV (hereinafter, "the Project");

WHEREAS, there are a number of concerns about the Project, which concerns include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Whether or not the existing dam of the reservoir is able to support the activities contemplated by the Project;
- Whether or not the State of New Hampshire will issue a Letter of Deficiency relative to said dam, and what effect such a Letter of Deficiency would have on the Project;

- What effect the Project will have on the water quality of the water in the New Reservoir, and the water in the related aquifer, and the water in Town wells;
- Safety concerns of the Wilton Police Department relative to the Project;
- Safety concerns of the Wilton Fire Department relative to the Project;
- Costs of creating and maintaining the Project;
- Whether or not the Project complies with applicable planning board regulations;
- Whether or not the Project complies with the zoning ordinance.

THEREFORE, before commencing any work, construction, development, land clearing, grading, or improvements relative to the Project, the Town shall first conduct a study, the results of which shall be made public and available to the registered voters of the Town of Wilton, and said study shall investigate the following issues:

- Is the existing dam of the New Reservoir able to support the activities contemplated by the Project?
- Has the State of New Hampshire issued a Letter of Deficiency relative to the dam of the New Reservoir?
- If the State of New Hampshire has issued a Letter of Deficiency relative to the dam of the New Reservoir, what effect does the Letter of Deficiency have on the Project?
- What effect will the Project have on the water quality of the water in the New Reservoir, and the water in the related aquifer, and the water in Town wells?
- What are the concerns of the Wilton Police Department relative to the Project?
- What are the concerns of the Wilton Fire Department relative to the Project?
- What are the costs of creating and maintaining the Project?
- Does the Project comply with applicable planning board regulations?
- Does the Project comply with the zoning ordinance?

(By Petition.)



Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kelly Eshback made a motion to table the article. The motion to table was seconded by Neil Faiman. Voice vote to table Article #10 passes.

11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into an extension of a lease with Quinn Brothers Corporation, originally signed on March 8, 2004, for the use and occupancy of certain property owned by the Town of Wilton, identified as Map E, Lot 23, for the period commencing on April 1, 2019, and ending on April 1, 2020, for an annual payment from the Quinn Bros. Corp. in the amount of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000), and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and agree to such terms of the lease as the Board, in its discretion, determines to be in the Town's interest. (Majority vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams moved to amend Article 11, lines 4 & 5 as follows:

"... for the period commencing on March 1, 2019, and ending on March 1, 2020,..." The motion is seconded by Donna Pucciarello. Kermit explains that these new dates match the dates in the original contract, and by extending the agreement by a year it will allow time to consider options as to what is in the best interest of the town. The motion to amend is voice vote approved.

Tom Schultz, Wilton Water Commissioner, next moved to amend line 7 verbiage to read as follows:

"... Bros. Corp. up to the amount of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000), and to authorize....". The amendment was seconded by Joanna Eckstrom.

Following further discussions and then a Motion to Move the question from Bill Condra, Article 11, as amended twice, was voice vote approved.

12. To see if the Town will vote to allow the operation of KENO within the Town pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 284:41 through 51. Shall we allow the operation of KENO games within the Town? (Ballot vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moderator Bill Keefe began this article by stating the vote on Article 12 would be by paper ballot.

General discussion ensued including comments from the general audience and from representatives from the Legion and Wilton House of Pizza.

Total votes cast were 170. Yes votes 121, no votes 49. Article #12, as written, was approved.

13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a four (4) year lease agreement in the amount of thirty five thousand seven hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$35,768) for the purpose of leasing a new police cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand nine hundred forty-two dollars (\$8,942) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Selectmen Kermit Williams explained that this lease's terms are different from a "lease" that any of us might enter into. It has an escape clause that allows the Town to terminate the lease at no additional cost should the voters elect to not fund the lease cost each year.

Police Chief Eric Olesen explained the new vehicle was a sedan style cruiser rather than a SUV option. The Chevy cruiser they are acquiring will fit all the equipment from the 2013 Chevy Caprice that is being decommissioned. This will save the Town significant costs.

The Moderator then read Article #13 as written. The article was voice vote approved.

14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a seven (7) year lease agreement in the amount of two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000) for the purpose of leasing a new dump truck and associated equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following a few points of discussion that article, as written, was voice vote approved.

15. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund established in 1984. The fund balance in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2017 was sixty three thousand three hundred fifty-four dollars and eighty-one cents (\$63,354.81). Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, shall be transferred to the general fund, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required).

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Following a brief explanation, the article, as written, was voice vote approved.

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty three thousand three hundred fifty-five dollars (\$63,355) to be added to the Ambulance Service Revolving Fund from the unassigned fund balance. This represents the funds from the dissolution of the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund in article 15 and is contingent upon passage of article 15. 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

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

17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a seven (7) year lease agreement in the amount of two hundred twenty two thousand seven hundred sixty-three dollars (\$222,763) for the purpose of leasing a new ambulance, and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty one thousand eight hundred twenty-four dollars (\$31,824) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The monies to come from the Ambulance Service Revolving Fund, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Bill Condra, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Ambulance Chief, Steve Desrosiers, explained that the prior ambulance replacement cycle had been on a (13) year cycle. In the case of their 2007 Ambulance this has proven to be three years (3) too long. As he put it “not being able to start an ambulance when a life is in danger is unacceptable”.

Following his explanation Article 17, as written, was voice vote approved.

18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement in the amount of eighty six thousand two hundred ninety-five dollars (\$86,295) for the purpose of leasing two (2) cardiac monitors, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand two hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$17,259) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The monies to come from the Ambulance Service Revolving Fund, or to take any other action relating thereto. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Cary Hughes, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Ambulance Chief, Steve Desrosiers, explained that the current two (2) cardiac monitors have reached the end of their warranty later this year. Operating them after their warranty has expired could expose the Town to liability should an older monitor continue to be used and it malfunctions on a patient.

Following this explanation Article #18, as written, was voice vote approved.

19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase radios and pagers for the Ambulance Service. Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to come from the Florence M. Wheeler Fund previously established, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Steve Desrosiers explained only radios would be purchased with approval of this article. Two-way radio communication capability was felt to be a more important feature than one-way pager options.

Alex Loverme made a motion to amend Article 19 to delete the words ... “and pagers”.... Motion to amend seconded by Donna Puccairello.

Following several points of discussion, the motion to amend was voice vote approved.

The Moderator then read the article, as amended. Article 19, as amended, was approved.

20. Are you in favor of combining the offices of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector to create a new office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector with the term of office to be three (3) years? If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting to choose a Town Clerk/Tax Collector. (Majority ballot vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following a brief explanation from Selectwomen Kelli-Sue Boissionnault the voters voted by paper ballot. Total votes cast were 132. Yes votes 128, no votes 4. Article #20, as written, was approved.

21. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Department Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the future purchase of new air packs for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund, and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

As the Fire Department had left to respond to a call, Joe Torre spoke on their behalf. He explained that the department's current air packs were between fifteen and twenty years old. He said twenty three (23) air packs were to be replaced.

Following this explanation Article 21, as written, was voice vote approved.

22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of purchasing turnout gear for the Fire Department. 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Selectmen Kermit Williams explained on behalf of the Fire Chief (who was still out at a call) that the department's current turnout gear was 20 years old. He described that the new gear is better able to withstand the "hotter fires" created from today's building materials and furnishings.

Following this explanation Article 22, as written, was voice vote approved.

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand seven hundred seventy dollars (\$14,770) for the purpose of design, construction, and installation of "Welcome to Wilton" signs at the entrances to town, and way-finding signs downtown to indicate anchor attractions. 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Jennifer Beck, Economic Development Team Chair, gave a concise overview of the group's activities. She explained that this particular article represents just one of 32 projects being worked on by the Economic Development Team, volunteers, support and expertise from the business community and lots of good smart people helping.

She stated that our MS1 Municipal Property report shows Wilton values are made up of 88.2% residential and only 10.1% is derived from commercial property assessments. One of the team's key goals is to determine how to shift the tax burden from residential to commercial. An objective of the signage, and the other projects that go along with it, is to help diversify the tax base by boosting the percentage we get from commercial properties. She emphasized that signage will help get folks to come to Wilton

Following further comments, both in support and opposed, Article 23, as written, was voice vote approved.

24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500) for the design options for the next phase of the Riverwalk, and a feasibility plan for a footbridge on the east side of Stony Brook, to include public input sessions, architectural design options, landscaping, and a final report for phased construction. 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Jennifer Beck presented the scope of this article and how this project's intent is to make downtown more attractive, but that goal would help improve all of the town. Strong words of support and opposition were stated by many in the audience. Discussion concluded when a motion to call the question was made by Bill Condra.

Following this explanation Article 24, as written, was voice vote approved.

25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for document scanning and imaging services. The monies to come from general taxation, or take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams explained our town has a 125 year span of documents that are involved in the record retention project. The intent in scanning is to allow public, on-line access to records such as planning, zoning and building files. Additional areas will also be considered as the project moves forward.

Following his remarks and several questions from the floor, Article #25, as written, was voice vote approved.

26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty six thousand dollars (\$56,000) to be placed in the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund previously established, and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Town Administrator, Scott Butcher, explained the Stagecoach Road Bridge is on the State's bridge "red list". Our town may ultimately choose to do the work ourselves but setting aside these funds gives the town flexibility. Alternately the town could wait 10 years to have the state do the work.

Following his remarks and several questions from the floor, Article #26, as written, was voice vote approved.

27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Public Works Garage 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams explained the current building was built in the 1950's. The intent of this article is to address a long-term plan to eventually replace the structure on a new piece of land. Relocation of the garage to another site is necessary due to wetlands and proximity to a stream that make the current site not environmentally feasible going forward.

Following further comments Neil Faiman made a motion to Move the Question. The motion was seconded by Cary Hughes.

Following the Motion to Move the Question Article 27, as written, was voice vote approved.

28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Vehicle 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Hearing no questions, the Moderator reread the article. Article 28, as written, was voice vote approved.

29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Heating System



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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams explained that twenty five thousand (\$25,000) already is in the Town Hall Heating System Capital Reserve Fund. This article, if approved, would add money to the existing fund.

Following this explanation Article 29, as written, was voice vote approved.

30. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Hall Fire Protection Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the Town Hall fire protection needs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty four thousand dollars (\$34,000) 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.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kellie-Sue Boissonnault explained the intent of this article is to install fire sprinklers in the portion of the Town Hall that does not currently have sprinklers, which is the upstairs area.

Following this explanation Article 30, as written, was voice vote approved.

31. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Cooley Park Improvement Project Capital Reserve Fund established in 1994. The fund balance in the Cooley Park Improvement Project Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2017 was eighty six thousand six hundred sixty-two dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$86,662.77). Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, shall be transferred to the general fund, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

The article, as written, was voice vote approved.

32. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to NH RSA 35:9-a-II, to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay for capital reserve fund investment management services, and any other expenses incurred, from capital reserve funds income. No vote by the Town to rescind such authority shall occur within five years of the original adoption of this article. (Majority vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following a few points of explanation Article 32, as written, was voice vote approved.

33. To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the Selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both; provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. (Majority vote required.)

(Selectmen recommend this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams explained the purpose of the article was to authorize the Select Board to be able to take action if it makes sense.

Article 33, as written, was voice vote approved.

34. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Wilton:

**RESOLUTION TO BAN GAS PIPELINE EXPANSION  
OR  
CONSTRUCTION IN WILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**SUMMARY OF NEED**

It has been over a year since Kinder-Morgan (K-M) withdrew the New England Direct (NED) pipeline proposal. However, this was not due to the resistance of communities to pipeline development, but due to a lack of customers willing to sign up for service. Not enough customers meant not enough profits, and the energy companies care first and foremost for profits.

The NED pipeline was to carry Natural “fracked” Gas to serve the northeast. 419 miles of new pipeline were to have been constructed to carry Natural Gas

from Pennsylvania to New York, through Connecticut into Massachusetts, then into New Hampshire to travel through southern New Hampshire then exit to end in Dracut, Massachusetts.

Environmentalists across the United States are opposed to fracking for several reasons:

1. Benzene is injected into the ground, contaminating groundwater.
2. Trade secret chemicals are also injected. What those are, nobody but the extraction companies know.
3. Methane - CH<sub>4</sub>, what Natural Gas is composed of, is approximately 86x more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. Methane is routinely released during extraction, compression, and transfer of Natural Gas. Less attention is paid to containment as Methane is considered a "safe gas" by the industry as it is lighter than air and does not remain at release points (as heavier than air propane often does).
4. Fracking has been linked to earthquakes through wastewater/waste chemical disposal by the United States Geological Survey.
5. "Fracked" natural gas is a fossil fuel. It is not a renewable resource.

In the last year the New Hampshire Natural "fracked" Gas market has changed as new gas infrastructure has been developed, is currently under development in 2017, and is planned for in 2018.

Some examples of these changes are:

- Liberty Utilities has contracted to convert to and then supply Natural Gas to State buildings, schools, and some businesses in Concord.
- Liberty Utilities has contracted to convert to and then supply Natural Gas to the Monadnock Marketplace in Keene. A Natural Gas storage and transfer plant is under construction on 43 Production Avenue in Keene.
- Liberty Utilities has nearly completed construction of a 5-mile Natural Gas pipeline to supply Natural Gas from Dracut, Massachusetts to Pelham, NH.
- Liberty Utilities is currently seeking to build an 11-mile pipeline to bring Natural Gas to the Lebanon-Hanover area. Construction would begin in 2018.

Liberty Utilities, along with their parent company, Algonquin Power and Utilities Company, has expanded the import and use of Natural Gas in New Hampshire.

The relationship between Liberty Utilities and Kinder-Morgan became apparent in October of 2015, when Liberty Utilities applied for and received approval from the NH Public Utilities Commission to buy transit space in the NED pipeline (if built). This helps to explain why Liberty Utilities has been so actively promoting fracked Natural Gas utilization and infrastructure. They want an inexpensive way to bring product to New Hampshire.

As the Natural Gas infrastructure in New Hampshire grows, the profit potential increases, and the likelihood of gas companies joining forces to propose a new version of the NED pipeline also increases.

This resolution will help Wilton in the following ways:

- This resolution expands the language of a previous resolution to include all gas companies, and all gas pipeline expansion and construction. A previous resolution was specifically aimed at the NED pipeline, Tennessee Gas, and Kinder-Morgan, and would not apply to a new company, or pipeline expansion or construction of a different name.
- There is some evidence that when gas company's survey routes for a pipeline they avoid towns where there is strong opposition if the surveyed route demonstrates it is reasonable to do so.
- By standing with other towns in New Hampshire against the development of fossil fuel infrastructure, our town supports a mandate for the development of sustainable energy resources.

Sources:

NED Pipeline Overview – Route:

<http://nhpipelineawareness.org/pipeline/>

Methane (Natural Gas) and Climate Change:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-bad-of-a-greenhouse-gas-is-methane/>

Dangers of Fracking:

[https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case\\_studies/hydrofracking\\_w.html](https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/hydrofracking_w.html)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2017/02/23/fracking-is-dangerous-to-your-health-heres-why/#1182004d5945>

Liberty Utilities – Kinder-Morgan Relationship:

<http://nhpr.org/post/liberty-utilities-can-buy-space-kinder-morgan-pipeline-if-its-built#stream/0>

**RESOLUTION TO BAN GAS PIPELINE EXPANSION  
OR  
CONSTRUCTION IN WILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Whereas any proposed High-Pressure Pipeline, carrying natural gas including gas obtained by hydraulic fracturing (“fracking” or “fracked gas”), may come through Wilton transporting said fuel to any and all destinations, including overseas destinations;

Whereas said pipeline undermines current New Hampshire commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change;

Whereas said pipeline expansion or construction would obliterate for all time major tracts of precious forest, conservation and farm lands and would threaten wetlands as well as streams, rivers and ground water, as set forth to be protected in the Town’s Master Plan;

Whereas said pipeline expansion or construction would be ruinous to the scenic beauty and tranquility of this Town;

Whereas said pipeline expansion or construction would negatively impact town property values;

Whereas a high-pressure gas pipeline designed to concentrate vast amounts of gas below ground in order to boost the velocity of gas, carries the potential for leak, rupture, or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives and the local economy;

Whereas such pipelines are notorious for and have a well-documented history of leaks and escape of the highly environmentally damaging methane gas at every point in the process including extraction, transmission, and storage;

Whereas the cost of said pipeline expansion or construction would require citizens to pay potential utility bills as well as environmental costs to a utility or gas company, including but not limited to Liberty Utilities, or Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, or any other utility or gas company, forcing ratepayers to bear financial risk for the financial benefit of a private corporation;

Whereas, we the citizens of Wilton, New Hampshire choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, economic stability of those places where hydraulic fracturing is occurring, and the pressurized pipeline is running; now,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the people of Wilton, New Hampshire:

- Hereby call on our Select Board to stand in opposition of any Natural Gas pipeline expansion or construction and not allow it within our Town borders;
- Oppose said pipeline expansion or construction, and any new pipeline carrying Natural Gas whether obtained by hydraulic fracturing or otherwise, within the borders of our Town, State, or our Nation;
- Oppose the use of eminent domain for the taking of any property for private commercial gain;
- Hereby instruct our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being and our bodily safety, and instead, to promote more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of, and adoption of, and investment in renewable energy sources.

(By Petition.)

The article was moved and seconded from the floor.

Chris Balch said he authored this petition article because, while it is non-binding, he feels very strongly about this issue. Following his short presentation, comments in support of his article and against it were offered from the audience. A motion to move the question was made and seconded. The non-binding vote was in support of Article 34.

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Article 35, to accept the report of Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers was accepted as written.

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

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams apologized for the late hour but asked to speak about the future and the importance of Wilton's railroad line. He detailed how the railroad had served Wilton through its history. The line allowed farm and forest products to be shipped out and manufactured goods could be brought into the area. The economy prospered as did the tourism industry.

The tourism avenue was rekindled by Stuart Draper's love of the rails when he created a scenic excursion railroad. It flourished until his untimely death in 2006.

The tracks are currently utilized by the Milford & Bennington Railroad, which hauls crushed stone from the Granite State Concrete quarry near Goss Park to the Granite State Concrete plant in Milford.

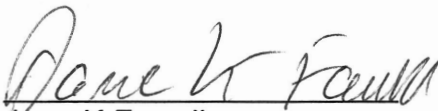
The Federal Surface Transportation Board, who regulates all US railways, notified the town that Pan Am Railways wants to discontinue the line in Wilton. If this was to happen the Milford & Bennington Railroad would be out of business and all crushed stone transport would then be trucked through town. This would create 80+ truck trips per day over our bridges and roads.

Discontinuing the tracks would also end any possibility of a tourist train should another individual or group wish to revive that venture.

The ultimate decision to allow Pan Am to close this line is up to the Surface Transportation Board but they are required to hear from all those who are affected. According to Pan Am only the Milford & Bennington railroad would be affected. The purpose of this discussion is to ask those here to participate in a straw vote showing their support in keeping the railroad line open. While late in the evening, hands were asked to be raised. Nearly all in attendance showed their support in keeping the tracks that run through Wilton in service.

Following this straw vote a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The March 2018 town meeting closed at 11:20 PM.

Sincerely,



Jane K Farrell  
Town Clerk & Tax Collector  
July 2, 2018