

**TOWN OF WILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019, ELECTION RESULTS  
&  
MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2019, 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 2803 registered voters, the following votes were cast with various write-ins omitted: 394 votes, including absentee ballots and 11 new voters.

1. Select Board: 3 year term
 

Kellie-Sue Boissonnault	289*
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Treasurer: 1 year	
William H. Chalmers	91
DJ Garcia Jr.	279*

  

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 3 year term	
Jane K. Farrell	371*

  

Cemetery Trustee: 3 year term	
Steve Elliott	302*

  

Trustee of the Trust Funds: 3 year term	
Virginia Day	351*

  

Planning Board: 1 year term - Vote for two	
Pamela L. Clemens	316*
Karon S. Walker	303*

  

Planning Board: 3 year term - Vote for two	
Todd A. Clough	315*
W. Bart Hunter	318*

  

Sewer Commissioner: 3 year term	
Christopher D. Carter	353*

  

Water Commissioner: 3 year term	
Kermit R. Williams	313*

  
- 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 chapter Section 7A Downtown Commercial District to distinguish the already existing Downtown Commercial District area established in Section 7.0.2 from the Commercial District.

This provision exempts non-residential uses from off street parking requirements; it eliminates site plan review requirements for many commercial uses; and establishes set-back requirements to conform to the existing neighborhood.

AMEND Section 7, Commercial District to make it consistent with the proposed Section 7A: Downtown Commercial District, including removing references to the Downtown Commercial Ordinance and standardizing permitted use terminology between the two sections.

AMEND Section 16, Signs, Section 16.3 by deleting the phrase, "except for the Downtown Wilton area as defined in Section 8.0.1 d and e" and Section 16.5 by deleting the phrase "Section 8.0.1 d and e" and replacing it with "Section 7A.1."

This amendment will update references to the existing Zoning Ordinance and provide consistency with the existing character of the district.

Yes 302\*            No 73

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 Section 5, Residential District, Section 5.5.4 Special Exceptions to incorporate the sentence, "The following will only be allowed as special exceptions by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. (See also Section 4.4)."

The purpose of this amendment is to introduce the Special Exception language in the Accessory Dwelling Unit Section, so it is the same language as the other Special Exceptions throughout the remainder of the Zoning Ordinance.

Yes 312\*            No 63

Moderator William Keefe began the 257th Town Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 14th, 2019, at the Florence Rideout Elementary School. He welcomed everyone and started the meeting by noting the outcome of Tuesday's elections. He then began the Town Meeting by reading Article 4 as follows:

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Four Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$4,852,981) for the general municipal operation for the year 2019. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

The article was moved by Harry Dailey, seconded by Joanna Eckstrom. Budget Committee Chairman Cary Hughes presented an overview of the proposed budget. He compared the 2018 budgets against the 2019 requested amounts.

He noted that the Police Department budget decreased slightly due to a reassignment of duties. The Fire Department had a slight increase to help fund gear replacement. The Building Inspector budget increased to allow for an increase in hours. MACC Base changes have caused the increase for Communications. The Ambulance Department decrease is due to the Ambulance Revolving Fund and that the current budget shows only Wilton's portion - a change from prior years.

He explained the DPW elimination of its Director position reduced their cost. He thanked our Town Administrator for taking over the administrative portion of that position. The resurfacing budget was up due to increased material costs. The Recycling Department decrease was also attributable to their Recycling Center Revolving Fund and, like Ambulance, only Wilton's portion is shown in the 2019 budget. Street lighting, Sewer & Water remained relatively flat. Election and Registration was down for 2019 due to just one election this year.

He explained further Wilton's two Revolving Funds: Recycling Center Revolving Fund & the Ambulance Revolving Fund. The intent of using revolving funds is to help level out high and low spikes that occur over time. Participating towns make contributions, revenue from ambulance services and sale of recyclable material all help bring monies into the accounts.

Cary explained that the Operating Budget being voted on in this article doesn't include any special warrant articles that will be addressed later.

He discussed the function of our undesignated fund balance and how it serves as an emergency reserve. He explained that the NH Department of Revenue recommends each town maintain a minimum 5% reserve in their accounts. He noted that the town had in multiple recent years used extra amounts over the 5% to help offset tax rate hikes. That wasn't going to be an option in this upcoming year due to the fund being so near its required minimum level.

Ruth Smith spoke succinctly saying if all articles are approved taxpayers would see a 7.8% increase on their taxes. "To avoid this either we need to increase revenue or decrease spending".

Harry Dailey cautioned voters to understand that the 2019 Operating Budget is a 4.3% increase from 2018. The means of accounting for the two revolving accounts - Ambulance and Recycling - skew the budget's outright appearance.

Laura Manning asked why the Emergency Management budget increased so significantly. Cary Hughes explained a part time Manager had been hired to oversee the program.

Emergency Management Director, David Boissonnault, stated costs went up so much because “we didn’t have anything in position” to run this department. The needs were as basic as no telephone line, computer or TV, and as major as updates to the Emergency Mitigation Plan which is due in 2020. He stated there were many more projects that were overdue and needed to be updated.

Abby Dawson asked about the Employee Benefit Package and who is responsible for what costs. Finance Officer Deb Harling explained the employees are required to cover 20% of their own coverage and the town is responsible for 80%.

Library Trustee Ron Brown answered a question about the Library’s endowment funds. He explained that the endowment principal was only to be spent in the case of a catastrophic failure. Income generated from interest is allowed to be spent.

Wally Tyler noted that the salaries at the Library exceed all the money spent to run the Fire Department.

After several more comments from the participants, the Moderator reread Article 4. The vote on the Operating Budget was voice vote approved.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000) for the purpose of making the second year lease payment (of the 7 year lease approved by warrant article #14 at the 2018 Town Meeting) on the Highway Department 2019 International 10-Wheel Dump Truck. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes, seconded by Kellie-Sue Boissonnault.

Hearing no questions, the Moderator reread the article. Article 5, as written, was voice vote approved.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$8,942) for the purpose of making the second year lease payment (of the 4 year lease approved by warrant article #13 at the 2018 Town Meeting) on the Police Department 2017 Cruiser. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

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

Following several comments from the floor the Moderator then reread the article. Article 6, as written, was voice vote approved.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new 6-Wheel Truck and associated equipment for the Highway Department, and authorize the withdrawal of up to Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) from the Highway Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) is to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Kellie-Sue Boissonnault.

Mr. Wylie asked why leasing was not being considered rather than purchasing. It was explained prior leasing options were at rock bottom rates. Rates have gone up so the town is looking to go back to the more conventional purchasing plan.

Following more discussion Travis Belcher moved to amend the article and increase the \$35,000 (Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars) up to \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars). The money to be taken out of the Highway Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The motion was seconded by DJ Garcia.

Harry Dailey explained the Capital Investment Purchasing (CIP) Plan looks at all long-term needs of the town and has established replacement schedules. Taking more money out of the capital reserve fund would then alter other intended purchases laid out in the CIP Plan.

Brian Adams, Road Agent, said the next piece of highway equipment to be replaced was the sidewalk tractor.

Harry Daily answered another question asking if the monies could come from the unexpended fund balance. He explained that in 2018 \$450,000 (Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) had been used to offset taxes. In 2017 \$750,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) was taken from the unexpended fund balance. Tapping the unexpended fund balance to offset the tax rate has been used in significant amounts since 2013.

Laura Manning asked whether replacement with a used truck was being considered. Brian Adams stated prior used equipment purchases ended up costing more than they were worth. It was not an option being considered.

Brian Adams described the 2003 truck, while “bought new, is now pretty much at the end of its life span”.

Following more dialogue Bart Hunter made a motion to move the question. The motion to move the question was seconded by DJ Garcia. The motion to move the question passed.

The Moderator then read Article 7, as amended, to the voters. Article 7 was voice vote denied. The motion failed.

The Moderator then read Article 7, as originally written. Article 7 was voice vote approved.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$45,500) for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser and associated equipment, and authorize the withdrawal of up to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$20,500) is to come from general taxation, or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Joanna Eckstrom and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Police Chief Eric Olesen described the condition of the vehicle that this one will replace as follows: Mileage near 120,000 miles, engine needs a complete overhaul and is leaking oil internally. The vehicle to be replaced has to be used mostly for details and backup. He discussed the costs involved in maintaining police vehicles. He elaborated how mileage, idle time and meter hours all factor into the life of these vehicles. He further noted that this year’s purchase keeps the department on track with the Town’s CIP Plan.

Following Eric Olesen’s presentation the Moderator read Article 8, as written. Article 8 was voice vote approved.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$11,130) for the purpose of purchasing a new lawn mower and attachments for Cemetery/Parks and Recreation. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

The article was moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Kellie-Sue Boissonnault.

Following several brief discussions, the Moderator read Article 9 as written. Article 9 was voice vote approved.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)  
(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kermit Williams spoke offering further explanations that our Town has multiple bridges that need repair. They include Kimball Hill Road, Stagecoach and Old County Farm Road. He noted that the State of NH State Bridge Aid Program will cover 80% of a project and the Town covers 20%. Kermit noted that not all our bridges are covered by the State Bridge Aid Program nor can towns always wait for their repair time restraints designated by the State. In addition, he noted that when the State of NH is involved construction costs are much higher than if the Town did the work independently. The reason for the difference is because the State has to build to a much higher standard.

Following several more questions and comments from the voters the Moderator then read the article before the voters. Article 10, as written, was voice vote approved.

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,400,240) for the construction of King Brook Road Bridge (#074/050) as part of the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program. The State of New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program will reimburse One Million One Hundred Twenty Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars (\$1,120,192) and the balance of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Forty-Eight Dollars (\$280,048) to come from the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund previously established, or to take any other action related 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, 2023, whichever is sooner.

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)  
(Select Board recommends this article.)

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

Following brief dialogue, the Moderator reread the article before the voters. Article 11, as written, was voice vote approved.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello

Jim Cutler, Fire Chief, presented a detailed overview of his department, his people and their commitment to our town. He explained the current roster has 23 members, all of which are 100% volunteer. Wilton Firefighters have been protecting our citizens and surrounding communities since 1875. All the firefighters work full time jobs aside from their volunteering. Each firefighter attends a minimum of one department meeting and one company meeting per month with the exception of July. Almost all members are State of NH Level 1 certified or higher. Many have attended dozens of formal training courses over their careers.

He then explained what equipment made up the current fire department contingency. They are as follows:

Engine 1 - 1987 Pierce Pumper.

Engine 2 - 2007 Spartan/Valley Fire Equipment Pumper. Crew can ride inside. A huge improvement!

Engine 3 - 1963 FWD/Farrar Fire Apparatus Pumper. This engine is the oldest in-service engine in southern NH.

Ladder 1 - 2008 Spartan/Rosenbauer Aerial Ladder.

Forestry 1 - 1984 Chevrolet/EJ Murphy Forestry Pumper. A small truck designed to go into the woods.

Tanker 1 - 1993 International/EJ Murphy Pumper – Tanker.

Rescue 1 - 2014 Spartan/Valley Fire Equipment Rescue. Responds to almost all accidents.

UTV - 2018 Kawasaki/Kimtek UTV Off Road Vehicle. This is the department's newest vehicle obtained in 2018 via grant money. There was no cost to the taxpayers.



He stated his intent coming before the voters, noting the commitment of volunteers and the equipment they use, is so the voters can understand better why he is asking for support for funding of the Fire Department Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

“Our fire apparatus, average age of 26 years, is aging faster than the current Capital Improvement Plan is funded. The CIP plan changes yearly and the current long-term plans are not viable. Funding has been reallocated to other capital items without regard for the long-term apparatus needs of the Fire Department”.

“The current, 2019, CIP eliminated funding for our 56 year old Engine 3. If the CIP is not revised, it eliminates one engine and places the average age of apparatus to 31 years, with one piece of apparatus on a 40 year replacement plan, several others greater than 30 years”.

He elaborated that the age limit recommended by NFPA says fire apparatus that is over 25 years of age should be replaced. If that standard was adhered to Engine 1, Engine 3, Tanker 1 and Forestry 1 would all be taken out of service.

Following Jim Cutler’s detailed presentation, the Moderator read article 12. Article 12, as written, was voice vote approved.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Fire Department Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)  
(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Fire Chief Jim Cutler further described the age of their equipment and why they again needed the voters’ support.

It was mentioned by Wallace Tyler that the \$50,000 (Fifty-Thousand Dollar) request will not meet their need as the air pack cost runs \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to \$7,500 (Seventy-Five Hundred Dollars) per pack.

Paul Levesque suggested “if the department needed \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) ask for it”.

Jim Cutler next made a motion to increase the amount to be put into the Fire Department Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund from \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars). The motion was seconded by Paul Levesque. Jim concluded his presentation by saying: “Firefighting - one of the few professions left that still makes house calls!”

Don Nourse spoke in support of this article and amendment due to the higher temperature of today's fires which put more stress on our current equipment. He stated that this is a "vital piece of equipment for the firefighters".

Dan Nelson spoke to say his dad had been a Firefighter for 46 years. "These guys are trying to save our kids and homes. No brainer".

The Moderator next read Article 13, as amended. The motion to amend Article 13 was voice vote approved.

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the original article as amended, raising the amount of money to be put into the Fire Department Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Article 12, as amended, was voice vote approved.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars (\$41,422) for the purpose of installing energy efficient LED Street lights to replace the existing public street lighting. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

Moved by Cary Hughes and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

A detailed presentation was given by Chris Balch laying out Wilton's current lighting, 144 fixtures for which we pay \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) annually. Adopting the LED lighting is expected to net a 40% reduction. In the first year a \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) savings is expected, and a \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) savings over 10 years.

Other towns that have made this conversion saved the following: Nashua saved \$300,000 (Three-Hundred Thousand Dollars) Keene saved \$80,000 (Eighty-Thousand Dollars) and Bennington saved \$3,000 (Three Thousand Dollars) per year.

Numerous points were discussed regarding this article.

"Beyond what work has been done to date, the next steps include:

1. One more Public Meeting.
2. Prepare RFP / get bids / choose.
3. Convert lights (days not weeks).
4. Start saving immediately.
5. Submit rebate / get check.
6. Keep on saving (10 year warranty & a 20 year expected life)."

Deb Mortvedt asked about whether this project would be going through the bid process. Keith McKay stated the competitive bid process would be conducted.

Travis Belcher spoke to say he “absolutely supports the project”.

Ruth Smith stated she had reservations with this project. She felt there was not enough detail and the explanation was too simplistic. She suggested the project be delayed until more could be learned.

Jeff Stone asked who will maintain the lights, and also asked questions regarding light color, temperature and brightness.

Chris Balch noted “that this article is the first article proposed tonight that will save the town a significant amount of money”. He then made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded by Kellie-Sue Boissonnault.

The Moderator read the article as written. Article 14, as written, was voice vote approved.

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$5,600) for the purpose of increasing the stipend paid to the Select Board. If this article passes the total stipend paid each year will be \$12,500, to be allocated in the following manner Chair - \$4,500, 2 Select Board members \$4,000 each. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee does not recommend this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article, 2 in favor, 1 abstention.)

Moved by Kellie-Sue Boissonnault and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kellie-Sue spoke, stating that she believed the Select Board deserved a stipend increase but does not support this warrant article this year”. “The Town employees received a 2.5% COLA increase and no merit this year. “How can this Board request a 50+% increase with a clear conscience?” She said she would recommend that this article be brought before the Town next year.

Matt Fish spoke in support of the raise due to the huge time commitment required. He noted that over and above the Select Board meetings, each of the Board had their respective committee participation. He noted that some of the highest paid Select Boards pay \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) per year.

Kermit Williams spoke to say he has seen only one contested race and feels a higher stipend would entice folks to join the many elected opportunities within our community.

Alex Loverme spoke against the article as Matt had failed to mention that the highest paid town used as a comparison was a wealthy lakes region town. "We don't compare".

Amanda Bosse stated the town is filled with volunteers who aren't receiving a huge raise.

DJ Garcia stated he supports the Select Board and all they do but he doesn't support this article.

Paul Levesque asked how much time the Select Board spends on the job. Kelly-Sue Boissonnault estimated they spend fifty hours a month on average.

Matt Fish stated eleven meetings a month is a big commitment.

Tracey Ewing noted the townspeople had previously voted \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to hire a Town Administrator to reduce the Select Board workload. That was the justification for creating the position several years ago.

The Moderator then read the article, as written, and explained he had received a written request for a paper ballot. Following the vote, the Moderator read the paper ballot results.

Yes votes received 30, no votes received 100. Article 15 was defeated by a paper ballot vote.

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$6,252) for the purpose of increasing the Town Clerk/Tax Collector annual salary to \$68,767 per year. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action related thereto. (Majority vote required.)

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article, 2 in favor, 1 abstention.)

Moderator Bill Keefe stated he has asked Deb Degan to assist on this article as he was stepping aside.

The article was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Travis Belcher.

Ruth Smith spoke first in support of the article. "Jane is a National Treasure."

Kellie-Sue Boissonnault spoke against the article. "I am not in support of the stipend increase that is being requested by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Currently the position is paying \$68,767 annually, which broken down is \$33 per

hour for a 40 hour week. An increase of \$6,252 annually is approximate a \$3 per hour increase. Approximately a 9% increase for an elected official”.

She further explained two reasons why she did not support this article:

“First the position is an elected position of which the pay is a stipend, not a salary. As a town official, the town clerk / tax collector is not an employee of the town. The elected position is not subject to the personnel policies of the town with respect to vacation time, sick time, or hours of work per week. The clerk may set her own office hours and take what vacation and sick time she feels she can, while still providing the service the voters expect. This means that she can work 1 day a week or work 7 days a week and receive the same annual amount. This is a fixed annual amount no matter the number of hours or days worked in the year”.

“Secondly, what message are we providing our employees when an elected official receives a 9% increase when they received a 2.5% COLA increase and not merit?”

If you feel strongly on an increase for this position, I would recommend an amendment to a 2.5% COLA increase. This would be about \$1,900.

She went on to say: “Please understand this is not a reflection to what Jane brings to the Town Office, but my view on the increase request for this elected position”.

Kermit Williams spoke next noting that Town Clerk/Tax Collector is our only full time elected position. He elaborated that Jane works extended hours and cares possibly more for this town than any other employee”. He acknowledged the increase is significant but it is making up for many years of what she should have been paid. He concluded by saying he highly recommended the voters support this article.

Matt Fish concurred with Kermit’s support of this article.

After several more questions and comments Deb Degan then read the article as written. She explained that this article was also requested to be done by paper ballot. Following the vote Deb Degan read the paper ballot results as yes votes received 83, no votes received 35. Article 16, as written, was approved by a paper ballot vote.

17. 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 and the purchase of related equipment. The sum to come from the undesignated fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. This represents the funds from Article #25 approved at the March 2018 Town Meeting which were not spent. 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, 2021, whichever is sooner.

(Budget Committee recommends this article.)

(Select Board recommends this article.)

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

Select Board member Kermit Williams explained that this money had been appropriated at the 2018 Town Meeting. The goal of this project, then and now, was to scan and index historical and vital town documents. The electronic information would allow availability to users, safeguard the information, and address the town's long term storage situation.

He explained the project did not start in 2018 due to the realization that a more definitive implementation plan needed to be created to best utilize the monies. The unspent funds became part of our undesignated fund balance. This article is asking the voters to use those monies previously raised. The article, if approved, would not have an impact on the 2019 tax rate.

Following several more comments the Moderator then read the article as written. The article was voice vote approved.

18. To see if the Town will vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Wilton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years of age, \$40,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years of age, \$55,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$75,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$35,000, if single, or if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets, if single or married, not in excess of \$70,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following several comments and questions from the floor the Moderator then read the article as written. The article was voice vote approved.

19. To see if the Town will vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 to increase to \$4,000 the optional property tax credit for a qualifying Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following brief discussions, the Moderator then read the article as written. The article was voice vote approved.

20. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-F "Taxation of Farm Structures and Land under Farm Structures". (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Joanna Eckstrom.

Matt Fish spoke to say this article was an important means to help preserve our historic barns. The ability to reduce the tax burden on these structures will help allow farm owners to continue to keep these buildings. He did not want to see more historic barns like Gary Frye's be dismantled due to their large tax burden.

Randy Greeley asked if an application was required. Matt Fish said yes and that inspections are also required by the Assessor. Inspections would ensure the correct compliance is observed

The Moderator then reread the article. The article, as written, was voice vote approved.

21. To see if the Town will vote to modify the provisions of Chapter 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, previously adopted by Article #10 at the March 2017 Town Meeting, by changing the substantial rehabilitation period to 5 years.

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Following a short explanation, the Moderator reread the article as written. The article was voice vote approved

22. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a policy to have all meetings of Boards, Committees and Commissions that are held in the Courtroom of the Wilton Town Hall to be video recorded in order that these meetings can be "live streamed" for public viewing.

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Kellie-Sue Boissonnault explained that Chuck Crawford has generously donated the live streaming equipment to the town. She noted she was delighted with how many residents and surrounding community residents view the Select Board process. She said she and Matt had been approached asking for other department meetings to also be recorded. It was the feeling of the Board that this decision should be decided by the townspeople, here at our Town Meeting

Jeff Stone, 41 Tremont Street, was the first to speak to the proposed article. He began by stating he was a volunteer to two Boards - the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as a frequent citizen-attendee and occasional presenter at meetings of the Select Board. He noted he had several reservations to this article as it is written.

He asked what does “adopt a policy mean”? “Is recording required? Preferred? Or something else?” He said the wording of the article was open to interpretation. “If it is to be a requirement, then let’s word it in such a way that our intentions cannot be misunderstood”.

“Another issue raised is whether all board members want to be recorded. He said he knows of one individual who will resign from their board if this article is adopted. If this sentiment is shared by others, how many might not seek reappointment? How many might not want to volunteer in the first place?”

He spoke about scheduling logistics: “if recording is mandated for all meetings. Would some groups have to meet during business hours in order to get a Courtroom reservation? How would that affect folks and their paid jobs? What would be the impact on our volunteer board members?”

He summed up his concerns as follows:

- “The article is not being specific enough;
- Creates a disincentive to volunteer;
- A lack of equivalent, alternative meeting spaces; and
- The possibility of having to meet during the work-day”

Jackie Kahle, Economic Development, spoke highly of the idea to allow filming of all meetings held in the courtroom.

Todd Clough, 40 Dale Street, said of live streaming, “it’s great”. He described that live streaming is like “Dancing with the Stars on Monday nights”. He said “it got me interested in what is happening in town and encouraged me to join the Planning Board.

Kermit Williams spoke in support of live streaming, saying that it has allowed folks to be able to listen, and to hear what goes on in our town.

Walter Pries spoke vehemently against live streaming because he said the system “could be hacked”.

Tom Schultz, Water Commissioner, next spoke, to say he supports many positive attributes of live streaming but he has significant reservations. “It puts us out there, for better or for worse”.

The Moderator then reread the article as written. Article 22 was defeated by voice vote.

23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town of Wilton to designate West End Highway in its entirety, running from Temple Road to Rte.101, as well as to designate Town Farm Road, running from Temple Road and ending at the present driveway on the lot identified on the Wilton Tax Maps as E-042, as a Scenic Road in accordance with RSA 231:157 or to take any action related thereto.



(Heritage Commission recommends this article)

Moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Donna Pucciarello.

Michael Dell'Orto, Heritage Commission, explained this article is asking the voters to add Town Farm Road and West End Highway to seven already designated scenic roads.

He stated the "Scenic Road law was created several years ago by the NH State Legislature as a way of promoting the preservation of rural and scenic roadways as part of the geographic and cultural heritage of the state". He explained that the statute states "any major change to the road itself, such a road widening, straightening, paving, if not previously paved, or the cutting down of any tree with a diameter over 15 inches at the 4 foot height along the right of way cannot be done without prior public notification and a hearing. Hearing exceptions could be waived in the case of an emergency; tree removal or portions of a tree which pose an imminent threat to safety, property or a public utility when involved in the emergency restoration of service.

He noted normal trimming and clearing of smaller trees and brush is not affected. Trees that are potential safety hazards, or are adversely interfering with adjacent farming operations, can be removed. Landowner's rights, with respect to their own property, is still maintained except when a tree or trees have been acquired by the municipality as a shade or ornamental tree.

Lastly, he described the two roads and their historical place in our past. He described both roads are located in West Wilton. Both are remnants of earlier town roads that were once longer and more heavily traveled. West End Highway, formerly a main East/West route, was replaced by the Route 101 bypass expansion project. Town Farm Road once led to Wilton's Poor Farm which housed the town's paupers and other luckless souls until the County Poor Farm system was established in the 1860's.

Multiple residents offered further comments in support and against. A question was then asked if the NH RSA notification requirements were observed. Neil Faiman then read aloud RSA 231:157 which requires notifying abutters by certified mail prior to a vote at Town Meeting. This requirement has not been performed.

Due to this technicality the Moderator then asked for a motion to table this article indefinitely. The motion was moved by Kermit Williams and seconded by Cary Hughes. The motion to table the article was voice vote approved.

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

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

Two corrections were noted in the list of Town Officials. Tim Mortvedt is the Chair of the Sewer Department, not Chris Carter, and Ronald Caswell is the Assistant Fire Chief, not the Deputy Fire Chief.

The Moderator asked for a voice vote to accept the corrections. Voice vote approved.

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. The meeting ended at 11:05 PM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane K Farrell".

Jane K Farrell  
Wilton Town Clerk & Tax Collector