

**TOWN OF WILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 28, 2023, ELECTION RESULTS
(RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 14, 2023, DUE TO WEATHER)
AND MARCH 16, 2023, TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

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

The election was postponed from March 14 to March 28, 2023, due to weather. Moderator William Keefe opened the polls at 8:00 A.M. on March 28, 2023, at the Wilton Town Hall. The polls were closed at 7:00 P.M. Election and zoning ballot results were as follows:

Select Board: 3 year term	
Kermit R. Williams	352*
Treasurer: 1 year term	
Jessica M. Powers	143
Gail B. Agans	243*
Cemetery Trustee: 2 year term	
No candidate	To be appointed
Cemetery Trustee: 3 year term	
No candidate	To be appointed
Library Trustee: 3 year term	
Lynne R. Stone	350*
Planning Board: 3 year term – two positions	
Karon S. Walker	320*
Randy E King, Sr.	275*
Sewer Commission: 3 year term	
Joanna K. Eckstrom	339*
Trustee of Trust Funds: 2 year term	
No candidate	To be appointed
Trustee of Trust Funds: 3 year term	
David D. Miller	349*
Water Commission: 3 year term	
Hal J. Mapes	338*

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, which would create a uniform maximum structure height across zoning districts, as follows:

AMEND Section 5.2.5 to replace the phrase “Not to exceed forty-five (45) feet or two stories.” with “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities

permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

ADD a new Section 6.2.6, as follows: “Structure height. Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

ADD a new Section 7.2.5, as follows: “Structure height. Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

ADD a new Section 7A.5.6, as follows: “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

AMEND Section 8.2.6 to replace the sentence “Maximum structure height is forty-five (45) feet or two (2) stories.” with “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

AMEND 9.3.4 to replace the phrase “Two (2) stories with a maximum height above mean lot terrain of thirty-five (35) feet.” with “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

AMEND Section 9A.5.7 to replace the sentence “Maximum structure height is forty-five (45) or three (3) stories subject to Planning Board review in accordance with the Research and Office Park Regulations and the impact of the structure height on abutters to the Research and Office Park and the natural and rural environments.” with “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

AMEND Section 13.3(g) to replace the sentence “Maximum building height is forty-five (45) feet.” with “Except for small wind energy system and personal wireless service facilities permitted under Chapter 15 or Chapter 15A of this Ordinance, respectively, no structure shall exceed forty-five (45) feet in height.”

Yes 277* No 123

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, which would clarify the boundaries of the Office Park District, as follows:

AMEND Section 9.1(a) to replace the phrase “this includes lots C-127, C-127-1.” with “lot C-172-1 and part of lot C-127-3.”

Yes 361* No 81

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, which would clarify the boundaries of the Research and Office Park District, as follows:

AMEND Section 9A.3(a) to eliminate the phrases "The area in southwestern Wilton located west of NH Route 31." and "this includes".

AMEND Section 9A.3(b) to eliminate the phrase "The area in western Wilton bordering the Town of Temple south of NH Route 101." and to replace the phrase "this includes lots C-127, C-127-1, C-128-1 and C-128-3." with "lots C-127-1, C-127-3, C-128-1-1, C-128-1-2 and C-128-3."

Yes 357* No 85

5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to address multiple home occupations on the same property, as follows:

AMEND Section 5.3.1, as follows:

Replace the phrase "Any home occupation shall be permitted as a special exception provided it complies with the requirements of this section." with "Any home occupations shall be permitted by special exception provided that, taken together, they comply with the requirements of this section."

Add a new paragraph before subsection 5.3.1a., as follows: "Where one or more home occupations are already being conducted pursuant to a special exception under this section, any new home occupation will require a new special exception and site plan review that encompass all present and proposed home occupations on the premises."

Subsection 5.3.1(a), replace the phrase "The home occupation" with "Home occupations".

Subsection 5.3.1(g), replace the phrase "the home occupation" with "home occupations".

Subsection 5.3.1(i), replace the phrase "for a home occupation," with "for home occupations,".

AMEND Section 5.3.1.1, as follows:

Replace the phrase "A home occupation may be conducted without a special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and without site plan review by the Planning Board provided that, in addition to the requirements of the preceding section (5.3.1), it also satisfies the following standards:" with "One or more home occupations may be conducted without a special exception from the Zoning Board or Adjustment and without site plan review by the Planning Board provided that, in addition to the requirements of the preceding section 5.3.1, they also satisfy the following standards."

Subsection 5.3.1.1(a), replace the phrase “The home occupation” with “Home occupations”.

Subsection 5.3.1.1(b), replace the phrase “the home occupation” with “home occupations”.

Subsection 5.3.1.1(c), replace the phrase “The home occupation” with “Home occupations”.

Subsection 5.3.1.1(d), replace the phrase “a home occupation.” with “home occupations.”

Subsection 5.3.1.1(e), replace the word “outside” with the word “exterior”.

Yes 347* No 104

6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to clarify the status of structures or uses permitted by variances or special exceptions, and to clarify the process to request an extension of a variance or special exception, as follows:

AMEND Section 17.4, as follows:

Eliminate the paragraph “A building or use permitted by a variance or special exception granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall have the same status as a non-conforming building or use, and shall be subject to the restrictions of this section.”

Add a new Subsection 17.4.1, as follows: “Nonconformity. A building, structure or use permitted by a variance or special exception granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be subject to the same restrictions as a non-conforming building, structure or use under section 17.1 of this Ordinance.”

Eliminate the paragraph beginning “Furthermore, if construction has not begun or the use has not commenced within two (2) years of the granting of the variance or special exception, or March 10, 1992, whichever is later, then the variance or special exception shall expire. ...”

Add a new Subsection 17.4.2, “Expiration,” with the following clauses:

- “a. If construction has not begun or the use has not commenced (i) within two (2) years after the variance or special exception has been granted, or (ii) by March 10, 1992, whichever is later, then the variance or special exception shall expire. All rights conferred by a variance or special exception shall be void upon expiration. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may, but is not required to, specify the actions or conditions that will constitute beginning construction or commencing the use as part of its approval of a variance or special exception.
- b. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may, for good cause shown, grant an extension of time for an additional two years in which to exercise the rights accorded by the variance or special exception, provided that the extension

would be consistent with the intent and spirit of the Zoning Ordinance. Procedures for submission, noticing and hearing of applications for extensions shall be the same as for other applications to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and shall be submitted no less than 60 days nor more than 120 days before the expiration of the variance or special exception. Submission of an application for an extension shall stay the expiration until the Zoning Board of Adjustment has decided on the application. No more than two extensions may be granted."

Yes 332* No 83

7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 to the Town of Wilton Land Use Laws and Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to limit the Age Restricted Housing District to areas served by Town water and sewer, as follows:

AMEND Section 13.2 to eliminate the phrase "general residential and agricultural," and add the phrase "where Town water and sewer services are available."

AMEND Section 13.3, as follows:

Subsection 13.3(a), eliminate the phrase "when served by Town water and sewer" and the sentence "For lots not served by Town water and sewer the dwelling unit density shall not be greater than the density provisions of the underlying district."

Subsection 13.3(d), eliminate the phrase "if served by water and sewer, otherwise the minimum lot area shall be at least two (2) acres and the lot shall have two hundred (200) of frontage on a public right of way Class V or better" and the sentence "Lot coverage shall not exceed seventy five (75) percent of the total lot area."

Yes 299* No 118

**TOWN OF WILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 16TH, 2023, TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Moderator William Keefe began the 261st Town Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 16th, 2023, at the Wilton Lyndeborough Cooperative High School Gymnasium. After welcoming everyone he noted that he usually started the meeting by announcing the results of the election. Mother Nature, however, had other ideas. Elections have been postponed to Tuesday, March 28th, 2023.

He next stated the first article to be voted on, Article 8, involved a bond which required a 3/5 majority approval by paper ballot. In addition, the ballot box would remain open for a one hour minimum. Once the hour had passed the votes would be tallied by the Supervisors of the Checklist and the results announced. While the poll would remain open for Article 8, in the meantime we would proceed with the next article on the warrant.

Moderator Keefe next read Article 8 as follows:

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand

Dollars (\$200,000) to purchase **sewer system pump station standby generator upgrades**, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and/or notes not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA chapter 33) and to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale, and delivery of such bonds and/or notes as the Select Board determines to be in the interest of the Town. Further, to authorize the Town to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) established by RSA 486:14 for this purpose, and to allow the Town to expend such monies as become available from the Federal and State governments. It is anticipated that the Town will receive up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) in principal forgiveness from the State Revolving Fund loan program. Repayment of the bonds and notes authorized herein, after principal forgiveness, will be made by the Sewer Commission through ratepayers funds. **(3/5 Ballot Vote Required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-2)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams, Select Board Chairman, explained the intent, history, and the importance of voter support for this article. He detailed the history of the sewer system creation in the 1980's and the crucial importance of the pump stations' generators. "Our gravity feed system, eventually processed at the Milford Treatment Plant, has to have power to function. The current two pump station diesel generators are also 40 years old and not dependable if we really need them to work. If they were to fail, the sewage could overflow into the river and we would have a horrible situation to address."

He further explained funding for this article would be paid by the sewer rate payers at a very attractive 2% interest rate. Additionally, the program can offer forgiveness of the loan up to \$30,000. He concluded his remarks by again urging the voters present to support Article 8.

Moderator William Keefe, hearing no further questions explained the vote would be by paper ballot and in order to pass, 60% approval from this audience was required. He stated the polls would remain open for one hour per statutory requirement. He next reread Article 8 and opened the polls.

(See vote tally result announced after Article 18)

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of Six Million Fifty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$6,053,811) for general municipal operation for the year 2023. Said sum does not include the appropriations contained in special or individual Articles addressed separately. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Budget Committee Chair Cary Hughes presented the budget that was being put before the voters. He explained that while the operating budget figure is large, the due diligence of the department heads and their willingness to pare costs down kept it from being even larger.

He presented the make-up of the budget using pie chart slides. He began by noting the "General Government" portion consisted of many different slices such as "General Government Buildings \$57,698, Legal Expenses \$40,000, and Financial Administration \$248,000. He explained that the benefits, salary, and wages portion, \$398,500, is for the benefits for the employees of the town. As with most any business it is a large part of Wilton's budget".

He continued by breaking down the numerous pieces of the budget ranging from smaller budget expenses such as Cemetery and Property and Liability Insurance to larger budgets such as Public Safety (Police, Fire, Ambulance and Communication). He continued his presentation by detailing the many other components that made up Wilton's 2023 budget.

In summarizing his presentation, he stated some expenses were up and some had gone down. The voters last year approved a total operating budget of \$5,892,376. The operating budget before the voter's tonight is \$6,053,811. An increase of \$162,439 or 2.74%.

Following multiple questions and comments from the floor, the Moderator reread Article 9 as originally written. Article 9 was voice vote approved.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-One Dollars (\$62,531) for the purpose of paying the third-year lease payment for the **Fire Engine 1 Lease**, which is a ten-year lease-purchase agreement approved by Article 9 of the 2021 Town Meeting. Monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams explained Article 10 and Articles 11 and 12 are continuations of previous Town Meeting approved equipment lease purchases. Per statute, voters are required to approve the monies each year. Municipalities have a lease escape clause that allows towns to end their respective leases without penalty should the voters choose to not approve another year. While saying that is an option, he encouraged the voters to approve these three articles because we need the equipment.

Following brief discussions, the Moderator reread Article 10 as written. Article 10 was voice vote approved.

11. 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 sixth-year lease payment (of the seven-year lease approved by warrant Article #14 at the 2018 Town Meeting) on the **Highway Department's 2019 International 10-Wheel Dump Truck**. Monies to come from general

taxation. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Following brief discussions, the Moderator reread Article 11 as written. Article 11 was voice vote approved.

12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars (\$13,762) for the second-year payment for the **Highway Department Pickup Truck Lease**, which is a five-year lease-purchase agreement approved as Article 5 of the 2022 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0.)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Following brief discussions, the Moderator reread Article 12 as written. Article 12 was voice vote approved.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be placed in the **Dam Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**, previously established. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Matt Fish explained that the Select Board had received letters of deficiencies from the NH State Dam Bureau. The Frog Pond Dam and the New Reservoir Dam were both sited as being deficient. The New Reservoir Dam had the water intentionally lowered to relieve pressure on the dam structure. Work relating to the Frog Pond Dam is still being examined at this time. "Dams aren't cheap", but Matt encouraged the voters to support this article.

Following this explanation, the Moderator reread Article 13 as written. Article 13 was voice vote approved.

14. To see if the Town will vote to establish an **Emergency Communications Project Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of mitigating known remaining gaps in emergency services radio communication systems and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to **name the Select Board** as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Matt Fish outlined the ongoing MACC Base (Milford Area Communication Center) saga. Wilton and several other surrounding towns have relied for years on their system to dispatch all emergency personnel. Their equipment couldn't cover multiple poor-reception areas.

The surrounding towns are now having to fend for themselves to ensure community safety. The DRAM Cup Hill warrant Article 12, approved in 2022, helped tremendously by alleviating many of the issues. However, there are still some areas of town with poor or non-existent reception areas.

Kermit explained that by naming the Select Board as agents the Board could move forward should an opportunity arise that would be missed if we had to wait for the annual March Town Meeting cycle.

Following the Select Board explanations, Moderator Keefe reread Article 14 as written. Article 14 was voice vote approved.

15. To see if the Town will vote to create an **Emergency Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund** per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of covering future emergency building repairs, renovations, or reconstructions not covered by normal operating budget appropriations caused by damage or regulatory changes. Further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to that fund for the same purpose and to **designate the Select Board** as the agents to expend monies from the fund. Monies to come from general taxation. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends article 4-2-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Following a brief discussion from the floor and explanation from the Select Board, the Moderator then reread Article 15 as written. Article 15 was voice vote approved.

16. To see if the Town will vote to create a **Police Station Roof Repair Capital Reserve Fund** per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of constructing, repairing, maintaining, and/or replacing the roof of the Wilton Police Station and all other costs related thereto. Further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to be added to that fund for the same purpose and to **designate the Select Board** as the agents to expend monies from the fund. Monies to come from general taxation. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

D.J. Garcia explained that the Police Station's entire roof ridge vent is beginning to crack. Vaillancourt Roofing estimated the roof may last another five years before repairs or replacement needs to be done. This article is intended to begin raising money for that expenditure.

Deborah Mortvedt, Pead Hill Road, suggested solar components should be considered for all future town roof repair projects. D.J. Garcia agreed with this suggestion.

Kermit Williams encouraged caution about amending this article to add a required solar component for all future municipal roofs. He explained that if this amendment was approved, the Board would be required to install a solar panel system on every new town building roof, even if the location might not be suitable. He further stated that the NH Department of Revenue (DRA) does not like to see changes to the intent of a warrant article. They have, in the past, disallowed warrant articles whose intent was changed by the voters.

Following several more comments, the Moderator reread Article 16 as originally written. Article 16 was voice vote approved.

17. To see if the Town will vote to create an **Unanticipated Legal Expense Capital Reserve Fund** per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of paying legal fees, costs, judgments, settlement payments, and related costs associated with unanticipated legal expenditures. Further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to that fund for the same purpose and to **designate the Select Board** as the agents to expend monies from the fund. Monies to come from general taxation. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 2-1-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article. 4-2-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Matt Fish explained that, traditionally, legal expenses were included under the Select Board budget because you can never know when legal issues will arise. However, two years ago the State, encouraged by the Governor, created a Land Use Appeal Board with the purpose of encouraging affordable housing in NH. This Board created another avenue of appeal for land developers whose proposed developments were denied by their respective town Planning Boards. Prior to the Land Use Appeal Board creation, property developers could only appeal to Superior Court. Our Planning Board has seen more and more developers utilizing this Land Use Appeal Board. It was felt prudent to establish this Capital Reserve Fund to avoid taking a bite out of possible future legal expenses.

Following several questions and comments, Moderator Keefe reread Article 17 as written. Article 17 was voice vote approved.

18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the **Town Hall Fire Protection Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by the 2018 Town Meeting. The monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

D.J. Garcia stated that this money would allow for the eventual sprinkler installation for the upper level of the Town Hall. The existing system, installed only on the ground floor, would not be adequate should a fire break out on the upper level of the building. He stated this fund, created in 2018, had Fifty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred dollars (\$58,600) currently and if this article was approved it would get us on the way to the neighborhood of the One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) anticipated cost. He mentioned the recent fire at the Highway Garage and how that building had no sprinkler or alarm system. We were so very fortunate that a neighbor saw smoke. Adding to our luck, there was a multi-area fire department training drill occurring just down the street at the Fire Station when the call came into the Milford Area Communications Center. We were very fortunate that more damage did not occur.

Following his explanation, the Moderator reread Article 18 as originally written. Article 18 was voice vote approved.

The Moderator next reminded the audience that the required one-hour time for Article 8 was almost expired and that once the time had lapsed, the Supervisors of the Checklist would tally the paper votes. Shortly thereafter, the Moderator announced the polls were closed. He then asked the Supervisors of the Checklist to count the ballots.

In the meantime, Matt Fish spoke.

Matt Fish addressed the meeting by stating that Wilton had lost a few remarkable residents this past year. Former Selectmen David Glines, Ted Waterman, Chris Aucoin and Tom Prejsnar to name a few.

“It’s not often towns are blessed with people who have remarkable dedication to careers in public service. Wilton was blessed with such a person in Charlie McGettigan. He passed recently at 92 years old, and he had a remarkable career for the Town of Wilton.

He was born here and graduated from Wilton High School. He built his own home with his own hands and lived on McGettigan Road for 68 years. He was a Selectmen for 24 years. And we understand he was the youngest Selectmen ever elected.

He was a Water and Sewer Commission Member. He was a Fire Department volunteer, Recycling Center Committee member, High School Design Committee Member, Road Agent for almost 20 years, Cemetery Trustee, Welfare Director.... A remarkable career spanning more than four decades...”

Matt concluded his words by asking everyone in the hall to join him in a round of applause for such a remarkable person.

Kermit Williams next spoke to say he wanted to make a personal addition to Matt’s words.

“When I first got elected to the Select Board Charlie took an interest in me because I was such a

young Selectman. He wanted to make sure I got off on the right start.

Charlie says to me, if after you've been a Selectman for a little while, if half the town doesn't hate you, you're not doing the job. And since no one's running against me this time I probably haven't been doing the job well." Kermit went on to say he couldn't believe anyone hated Charlie. He was such a wonderful person. I miss him! The town was lucky to have him!

Kermit also stated Wilton suffered another loss just yesterday. Gary Crooker, who was a very active person in town. "I called him Mr. Old Home Days as he was the person who organized Old Home Days for the past 30 years. We will all miss him as well." He next asked for a standing moment of silence in Gary's honor.

Kermit then wanted to mention much happier thoughts - Wilton's 2023 Citizen of the Year

"Our Citizen of the Year is truly a Renaissance woman. In the past, we've chosen honorees who have made outstanding contributions to Wilton through business or through government or through community service. This year's honoree has done all three by working at the polls for many years, serving as an able assistant to our Moderator. She's made these town meetings go smoothly.

As a longtime member and Officer of the Lions Club, she supported the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and other charitable ventures of the Lions Club. She's presented scholarships to WLC graduates. And she is an even longer member of the Second Congregational Church where she has supported even more charitable activities, and church life. She has a beautiful voice that can be heard all over the area.

But I think most people know through her through her knitting. I was thinking about her as I watched the snowfall this week and read about numerous power outages. You really appreciate a hand knitted sweater when you're sitting in a cold house or shoveling two feet of snow."

He then proudly announced Deb Degan as Wilton's 2023 Citizen of the Year and asked all in the hall to give her a warm thanks for all she has done! Deb was presented with a plaque.

Following these presentations, the Moderator announced the results for Article 8. The paper tally vote was Yes 71, No 0. Article 8 was approved.

19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) to be added to the **Town Hall Repair Project Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by the 1994 Town Meeting. The monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 5-0-2)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Kermit Williams described the Wilton Town Hall as "really our jewel of downtown". "It is a stunning, beautiful building built in the late 1800's. The cost to build the entire structure was Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000). Today's cost to restore/preserve the cupola has not yet been determined. It is a very difficult repair project due to its height." He urged voters to approve this article and help preserve this jewel of downtown. "While it is a lot of

money to ask, I hope the voters will approve the article.”

Following additional comments, the Moderator reread Article 19 as written. Article 19 was voice vote approved.

20. To see if the town will vote to appoint the Wilton Select Board as agents to expend from the **Town Hall Repair Project Capital Reserve Fund** established by the 1994 Town Meeting. **(Majority vote required)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Hearing no discussion, the Moderator reread Article 20 as written. Article 20 was voice vote approved.

21. 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 Building Capital Reserve Fund** established by the 2017 Town Meeting. Monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Matt Fish described our DPW Garage as being “woefully inadequate”. “Trucks get bigger, supplies are larger, and we need more equipment. We’ve outgrown it. And then there was the fire. Not a lightning strike but certainly a wake-up call.”

A new crew quarter work trailer is now in place alongside the DPW garage. It’s heated, insulated and a good place for our staff. However, it is temporary!

This warrant article is to continue funding the previously established capital reserve fund. These monies will help cover architectural, engineering and land acquisition costs. The actual building will probably be a bond issue. He referenced a search committee that has spent extensive time researching options for a new DPW garage.

Kellie-Sue Boissonault, Burns Hill Road, spoke next asking to amend this article as follows:

“To amend this article to increase it to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000). This is a priority expense the town needs to give attention to.”

Motion to amend was seconded by Deb Mortvedt. She stated our Fire, Police, Ambulance, Town Hall, Post Office, Library, public and private schools, our buses, and your homes all depend on our DPW to be taking care of our roads.

D.J. Garcia next spoke to this amendment stating our DPW was just another example of deferred maintenance. “The Town of Wilton regularly and constantly puts off these large

projects. Now we are looking at another project that keeps getting more expensive.” He stated “this project will cost us Three Million bucks (\$3,000,000). There is no way around it. And then after that we will be talking about a new ambulance that are Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) and then a new fire truck that will cost a Million Dollars (\$1,000,000). It all costs money.”

Dave Agans asked if the extra Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) being requested would really make a difference if the actual project will require a bond? D.J. Garcia responded that yes, this extra money will go toward the eventual project.

Kermit Williams concurred that these funds are essentially “seed funds”. These monies will let the voters see what is being proposed.

Jennifer Beck asked about the Quinn offer to build a highway garage and lease it back to the town. Is that option still on the table?

Kellie-Sue Boissonault responded that the Quinn site is the least optimal site that has been looked at by the committee due to its location and restrictive logistics.

The Moderator next read the motion to amend Article 21 that would increase the amount from Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) that has been moved and seconded. The motion to amend Article 21 voice vote was not clear to the Moderator. He next asked for a show of hands in favor of the amendment and then a show of hands against the amendment. The Moderator announced the ayes have it. The motion to amend Article 21 was approved.

He then asked for any discussion on Article 21 as it had been amended.

D.J. Garcia explained “the current Select Board is fully aware of the garage issue and expects that next year’s town meeting will be seeing a tangible plan in front of this body”.

Hearing no further comments, Moderator Keefe reread Article 21 as amended.

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 Public Works Garage Building Capital Reserve Fund established by the 2017 Town Meeting. Monies are to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto.

Article 21, as amended, was voice vote approved.

22. To see if the town will vote to appoint the Wilton Select Board as agents to expend from the **Public Works Garage Building Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by the 2017 Town Meeting. **(Majority vote required)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by Cary Hughes.

Joe Torre spoke to say that while he supported all the other articles authorizing the Select Board to expend funds, he felt there was no immediate need to give this authorization. He

elaborated that “we the people should make the decision at a town meeting, with all the known particulars before vote approval.”

Kellie-Sue Boissonault asked for the voters to “vote yes on this.” “By voting yes it would allow the Select Board to act on anything brought forward by the committee. We (the Committee) are asking that they look at property and then get engineering completed. If we have to wait another year, that will be another year we are behind. The Select Board needs to have the means to use the money.”

Neil Faiman spoke supporting Article 22. “Approving this article will allow the Select Board to be able to put together designs and engineering. It is important they have the ability to be able to so the voters can be presented with the information at next year’s town meeting.”

Following several more comments, Moderator Keefe reread Article 22 as written. Article 22 was voice vote approved.

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,240,000) for the construction of **King Brook Road Bridge** (#074/060) 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 Nine Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars (\$992,000) and the balance of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$248,000) 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 21:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams spoke to say this was the biggest warrant article before the voters tonight, with the exception of the Operating Budget. He stated that this was the third town meeting to vote on repairing this smaller but important bridge located in the southwest portion of town. He noted the original warrant article was approved at the 2016 Town Meeting, but issues arose with the original engineering firm. Then we had issues hiring a new firm to take over. Some work has been done but more was still to be done. He noted that no tax dollars were going to be used. The State of NH will reimburse us Nine Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars (\$992,000). The balance of the money, Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$248,000), will come from the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund.

He concluded by asking the voters tonight to support this article so the work could proceed forward.

Following several more questions and comments from the floor, Moderator Keefe reread Article 23 as originally written. Article 23 voice vote approved.

24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of continuing repairs to the currently out-of-service **water hole (fire pond)** list, as prepared, maintained, and updated by the Fire Department. The

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, 2023, whichever is sooner. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Hearing no questions or comments, Moderator Keefe reread Article 24 as originally written. Article 24 was voice vote approved.

25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) for the purpose of purchasing a **used ladder truck and associated equipment** for the Fire Department. This vehicle will replace the Department's current ladder truck and the rescue truck, which will be traded in for the purchase of the new vehicle. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Donna Crane asked why some pieces of equipment were leased and others purchased. D.J. Garcia responded by saying Chief Nourse will be giving a presentation explaining the rationale, but the intent of this article is to combine the functionality of two pieces of equipment into one. The vehicle to be acquired is used, so that is why the voters are being asked to buy and not lease. He approximated a new ladder truck would cost One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) or more to purchase.

Donald Nouse, Fire Chief, stated when he came into his position in 2020 he gave "a real hard look at the equipment, vehicle age and fleet condition." He realized the Department was way behind the Capital Improvement Plan in replacing fire trucks. As the cost of everything else has gone up in price, fire trucks have not been immune to this issue.

In 2021 the plan was to reduce the fleet by one. A new Engine 1 and Forestry truck were acquired, and Engine 3 was retired.

This year he said "I took another hard look reviewing the fleet and felt retiring both the 2009 arial truck and the rescue truck made long term sense." Neither vehicle has a fire pump capability. The equipment of the Rescue (due to be replaced in 2024) can be utilized on the other vehicles.

He stated the department size has shrunk and it is vital when we are getting one, two or three trucks out the door that we get the most out of what equipment we have.

Following several more comments, and hearing no requests for further questions, the Moderator reread Article 25, as written. Article 25 was voice vote approved.

26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Hundred-Fifty

Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new **backhoe** for the Highway Department. Such vehicle will be a replacement for the 2016 Case Backhoe, which will be traded in on the purchase of the new vehicle. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Matt Fish spoke to say this article, if approved, would replace our current backhoe. "A backhoe in a rural town like Wilton is probably our number one tool used by our DPW crew. It gets a lot of use."

Following several more questions and comments, the Moderator reread Article 26, as originally written. Article 26 was voice vote approved.

27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by Article 14 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by D.J. Garcia, seconded by Kermit Williams.

D.J. Garcia said the intent of this article was to set aside money in increments for the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund conducted every five years.

Following his explanation, the Moderator reread Article 27, as originally written. Article 26 was voice vote approved.

28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) to be added to the **Police Cruiser Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by the 1994 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by D.J. Garcia, seconded by Kermit Williams.

D.J. Garcia explained this was an off year for purchasing a new vehicle. The intent is to put this money aside so next year's purchase will not have such a large sting.

Following several more comments, the Moderator reread Article 28 as originally written. Article 28 was voice vote approved.

29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purchase of **rescue tools** for the Fire Department. The monies to come from

general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee Recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Chief Nourse explained briefly this article would replace a 40 year old gas powered, obsolete, rescue hydraulic cutter. Our old tool couldn't cut the "steel cage" that today's vehicles are made with in the factory.

Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator reread Article 29 as originally written. Article 29 was voice vote approved.

30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be added to the **Air Packs Capital Reserve Fund** previously established by the 2018 Town Meeting. The monies to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee Recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Hearing no discussion, the Moderator reread Article 30 as originally written.

Article 30 was voice vote approved.

31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$132,357) to be added to the **Bridges Capital Reserve Fund** previously established. The monies to come from undesignated fund balance. This represents the balance of funds granted to the Town by the State of New Hampshire in 2022 for the purpose of municipal bridge work, or to take any other action relating thereto. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams spoke to say: "Like the earlier bridge warrant (Article 23), no taxpayer monies are being asked for in this article. The money mentioned in this article, One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$132,357) came from the State of NH monies received in 2022. Your yes vote tonight will take the money out of the unexpended fund balance and be added to the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. The money will then be able to be spent towards the intended red listed bridge repair sites."

Hearing no further questions, the Moderator reread Article 31 as originally written. Article 31 was voice vote approved.

32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Eight

Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$3,860) for the purpose of purchasing **two portable suction units and two thermometers** for the ambulances. The monies to come from the **Florence M. Wheeler Fund** previously established. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams spoke to say this is another article where the funds will come from the existing Florence M Wheeler Fund. No taxpayer monies will be spent if this article is approved tonight. He explained “only the interest earned can be spent, but over the years important pieces of equipment have been able to be purchased. This expenditure will allow our Ambulance crew to be more efficient and give them more capability for any issues they encounter.”

Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator reread Article 31 as originally written. Article 31 was voice vote approved.

33. To see if the Town will vote to re-adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, the **Optional Veterans’ Tax Credit** in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750). If re-adopted, the following individuals will be eligible for the Veteran’s Tax Credit: (a) every resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined by RSA 21:50, and who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in RSA 72:28, V and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, (b) every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of a service-connected disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and (c) the surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death. This tax credit shall replace and shall not be in addition to the standard veteran’s tax credit and shall be subtracted in accordance with RSA 72:28, III. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams stated Wilton already had voted for the Optional Veteran’s Tax Credit as well as Article 34’s All Veterans’ Tax Credit. But because the NH State Legislature changed how they are structured, it was thought prudent for us to readopt them. The Board wanted to ensure residents who are eligible for these tax credits don’t lose the benefit due to a technicality.

Following the explanation, the Moderator reread Article 33 as originally written. Article 33 was voice vote approved.

34. To see if the Town will vote to re-adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, the **All Veterans’ Tax Credit**. If re-adopted, the credit will be available to any resident of the state who is a veteran as defined in RSA 21:50, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any such resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United

States and (2) continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from services and (3) is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If re-adopted, the credit granted will be Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750), the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28. This tax credit shall be subtracted in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, III. This article shall be contingent on the passage of Article 33. If the Town Meeting votes "no" on Article 33, this Article shall be null and void. **(Majority vote required.)**

(Select Board recommends this article 3-0-0)
(Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0-1)

Moved by Kermit Williams, seconded by D.J. Garcia.

Kermit Williams stated he had just been handed paperwork that clarified the basis for the State Legislature restructuring these two Veteran credits. The most significant change allows those currently serving in the armed forces, (active duty / not yet discharged) to receive these tax credits.

Moderator Keefe reread Article 34 as originally written. Article 34 was voice vote approved.

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 D.J. Garcia.

Hearing no discussion, the Moderator reread Article 35 as originally written. Article 35 was voice vote approved.

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

Kermit Williams wanted the opportunity to recognize some wonderful individuals who have joined the Wilton Town Offices.

He first recognized Danielle Gardiner, Ambulance Chief, Mike Tatro, Highway Director, and Eric Window, Finance. In addition, he wanted to recognize Nick Germain, our Town Administrator, who has been with the town for about a year. "He has done a great job for Wilton!" The recognitions were acknowledged by rounds of applause.

He concluded by stating that just one more group needed to be recognized. He explained that just last week, after a long period of time, a contract was finally signed for the Community Power Aggregation Program.

This program was approved by the voters at last year's town meeting. It was a long process getting the Public Utilities Commission to give us approval to move forward. He wanted to recognize the Community Power Aggregation Committee members for their hard work in helping Wilton residents to be able to participate in this program, the multiple options available, and the lower rates for power available to residents. The Committee Members were: Rachel Chumbley, Michael Dell' Orto, John Zavgren; Gerry Humphrey, and Rich Lavelle.

D.J. Garcia next spoke to say if any residents wish to ask him any questions or have comments, his contact information is on the Town of Wilton website. He encouraged residents to attend their meetings or watch on the Live Stream.

Lastly the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane K. Farrell".

Jane K. Farrell
Town Clerk & Tax Collector