

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton Fire Department

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2018

Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chair; Harry Dailey, Vice Chair; Dawn Tuomala, Secretary; Donna Pucciarello, Kelley Eshback, Gail Agans, Joyce Fisk; Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Select Board Rep

Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Participating Towns of Lyndeborough, Temple, Mason and Greenville

Public Attendance: Pam Atwood, Steve Desrosiers, Nate Desrosiers, Ken Caisse, Mark Chamberlain, Fran Bujak, Peter Dalles, Russ Boland, Burton Reynolds, Bill Ezell, Jessie Salisbury, Gary Scholl

1. **Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**
2. **Goss Park** – Mike McGonegal presented their budget which is down to \$57,400 in 2018 from \$61,075 in 2017. There were no questions or discussion.
3. **Recycling Center Budget** – This budget is proposed to increase from \$530,583 in 2017 to \$544,253 in 2018. Mr. Butcher noted one increase is Dues & Subscriptions, as it was overspent last year. Another is Waste Management's projected increase which raised the line for Dumpster Hauling. FICA went up proportionately with the wages, about 3%. Sand, Stone & Gravel was increased slightly to offset some additional anticipated driveway patching. The cost for disposal of monitors was higher than expected last year, so was increased this year. There will be some fee adjustment to help offset that as well. Last year the Town entered into an agreement with NRPC and formed a co-op with more than a dozen other towns which reduced the cost of electricity.
4. **Public Questions/Comments** – Someone asked what was going on with the scales. Mr. Butcher said they were ready to go, and 2 employees had just received their Weighmaster certifications. As soon as we can have a public hearing for rate increases, we will start running vehicles over the scales that are disposing of appropriate waste. Burton Reynolds asked how we go about determining who we are going to sell our recyclables to in each category. Mr. Butcher said that with the markets dropping, it may be wise to look around for different vendors to find out what they might be willing to pay, and if they will pick them up. The markets are very depressed on some of these items; there may be no market at all on some items. The Recycling Committee will look into that further. There were no further questions.

5. **Ambulance Department Budget** – Mr. Butcher reviewed the numbers for all present. Total expenditures for 2018 are proposed to be \$409,453, up from \$391,249 in 2017. Because of the expected revenue increase, the amount of contributions from the other towns will be reduced despite the fact that we will be increasing wages to stay competitive with the local market for EMTs and Paramedics. The biggest change in the budget is in the wage line, but the excellent job in collections will more than offset that. The challenge this year is that the ambulance scheduled to be replaced in 2020 will need to be replaced this year instead, which will require some changes in the way we had planned to pay for it. Mr. Butcher has spoken to DRA about the best way to purchase/lease the vehicle, and whether we should have a warrant article for it. DRA did recommend a warrant article every year for both the ambulance and the monitors; this would give the most transparency.
6. **Public Questions/Comments** – A gentleman from Temple asked the best way for them to get this into a warrant article. Mr. Butcher stated that you cannot make lease payments from the Capital Reserve Fund. An option is to dissolve the Capital Reserve Fund and take the same amount of money and put it into a Revolving Fund. This method was used previously by the Recycling Center. That would take care of the funds that are now there, but the question remains “Can you raise and appropriate money to a Revolving Fund?” and that question was sent to DRA today. This would give Temple the opportunity to create a Revolving Fund and over time, Temple would catch up with their share of the contribution. He hopes to have a better idea next week of what should be done and then each Town can make up their own mind what the best way to do this is.

This gentleman mentioned that not having a contract does create some other questions for the other towns. Mr. Butcher said that the Select Board is looking to address this and hoping that in the spring they will have something for the other towns to take a look at. The question was asked “whose name will be on the lease” and the answer was “Wilton”. There was a concern for Temple that they could not assume both leases this year, but if he understands correctly, the actual operating cost will be reduced slightly which will help facilitate the extra funds needed for the ambulance and monitors. This was confirmed. There were no other questions.

7. Chairman Hughes asked for a motion for the Ambulance Budget. **Mr. Dailey made a motion that we accept the Ambulance Budget as presented. Ms. Pucciarello seconded.** Ms. Tuomala noted that some of the numbers on the Ambulance Budget needed to be corrected as they were negative rather than positive. She will correct those. Call the question: All were in favor. **Motion passed.**
8. **Mr. Dailey made a motion that we accept the Recycling Center Budget as presented. Ms. Pucciarello seconded.** Mr. Dailey commented that he did object to consistent 3% raises year after year after year; it will get out of control and it is absolutely against what the Wage and Salary Committee came up with. Ms. Pucciarello asked if we sent the letter to the Selectmen requesting the increase be lowered; this letter was sent last year. Mr. Dailey spoke to the original intent of the Wage and Salary Committee in bringing the salaries of the town employees in line with the surrounding communities. Mr. Dailey asked if evaluations have been done and approved. Mr. Butcher said that some had. Ms. Eshback asked when the Wage and Salary schedule brought Wilton’s wages into balance with the other towns. The answer was 2015. Discussion on wages and the wage scale continued without an agreement. Ms. Agans asked what our options were if we did not agree

with the wage increase. Mr. Dailey said we could reduce it. Chairman Hughes said it could not be done line by line, but it would be a recommendation. He explained the process that would happen at Town Meeting.

Mr. Dailey amended his motion to approve the amount of \$541,253 rather than the amount asked for of \$544,253, which encompassed dropping the raises to approximately 2%. Ms. Pucciarello seconded the amended motion.

Call the question: All were in favor; **motion passed.**

9. **Other Business** - Mr. Butcher said that as it turns out, there was not as much money in the Wheeler Fund as they originally thought. Mr. Dailey asked how much is in that fund; Mr. Butcher said that as of 1/18/18 there is about \$90,000 in there.
10. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of January 18, 2018** -Mr. Dailey asked if this could be put off until next week so they could be reviewed further. Chairman Hughes said that was fine.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 1, 2018** to finalize the budget. This will start **at 6:30 PM**. Mr. Dailey said that if all the numbers were ready, it could be done in 3 hours. Mr. Butcher said that they did not yet have all of the numbers for 2017. Mr. Dailey said that the letters at the end of the 2016 audit showed problems that needed to be fixed, and if they weren't, it would create more problems down the line. Ms. Eshback asked if we would have the warrants by next week; Mr. Butcher said that the Selectmen need to review them first.

11. Ms. Pucciarello asked Ms. Eshback if she had found another town that had gotten an ambulance with a grant in her comparison with other towns. Ms. Eshback said that it was a fire truck. Chief Desrosiers said that Chesterfield Ambulance was a part of the Fire Department, and Wilton is not. They also got a grant for the cardiac monitors. Chief Desrosiers said that the grant is not available this year. Ms. Pucciarello said that if grants are out there, we need to go after them. Not just for the Ambulance Department, but in general. Chief Desrosiers said we should have a grant writer.

Ms. Pucciarello mentioned the Annual Audit Report for 2016, and asked if we could get the reports from previous years; Ms. Atwood said she would email the reports that she had.

12. **A Motion for adjournment** was made by Mr. Dailey, and seconded by Ms. Pucciarello. All were in favor. Motion passed. **The Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Pack, Recording Clerk