

Joint Lyndeborough & Wilton Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town Hall Courtroom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2022

Members Participating: Cary Hughes, Chair; Gail Agans, Vice-Chair; Dawn Tuomala, Secretary; Kelly Eshback, Sandy Zielie, Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Select Board Rep DJ Garcia

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and did the Roll Call.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2022 – Ms. Boissonnault moved to approve the minutes of September 20; Ms. Eshback seconded.**
Discussion: It was noted that Gail Agans was listed as present, but was not there. **All were in favor of approving the minutes as amended except Mr. Garcia and Ms. Agans who abstained.**
3. **Public Comment & Questions:** none
4. **Town Administrator Update:** Mr. Germain said we're working with the Department Heads on their budgets. We finalized the proposed Ambulance IMA and a letter will be going to the partner communities. We felt pretty positive about the way things are going after our last Ambulance Advisory Committee meeting, and hopefully if we present a decent budget, things will go well. Mr. Germain sent out the RFQ for the King Brook Road Bridge and received back 4 good prospects which he and the Board will be looking over. We'll do the same process for the Old County Farm Road Bridge in about a month or so.
5. **Budget Presentations:**
 - a. **Health** – Mr. Germain said previously the Health Officer was the Building Inspector. Before that it was the Town Administrator, and before that, the Ambulance Director. The Select Board understands this is potentially a big responsibility, not just the inspection of daycares, and we've been doing a lot of related Code Enforcement lately. The Select Board felt that a team approach would be best as we on-board our new Building Inspector. Some things the Building Inspector will be able to handle, but other things will require assistance from the Town Administrator and the Ambulance Chief. As far as the budget goes, it is very small, just a few lines. We'll need to increase the training line; the NHHOA Workshop is the end of this month. The Statute says that within one year of being appointed, the Health Officer must complete the training.
 - b. **Welfare** – Ms. Pack presented the Welfare budget. She said the salary line could be decreased as she has not been taking a separate salary but that at the present time, she is the best person for this position as statute requires someone to be available 24/7. There was a discussion about carrying a smaller amount of \$1,000 or \$2,000 as a stipend rather than the \$4,000 salary amount. She has increased the amounts in the Welfare Water and

Sewer Payment lines as there have been increased requests for assistance, and decreased the Supplies line as she uses her own supplies. The Heating Fuel line has also been increased by \$1,000 due to increased costs for both oil and electricity. If the \$4,000 salary line was changed to a \$2,000 stipend then the Welfare budget would actually be less in 2023 than it was in 2022.

- c. **Goss Park** – Georgie Mogavero presented the budget for Goss Park, saying that they had an awesome summer. They have increased their budget by \$3,750 mainly to increase their labor line to attract and retain employees. They'd like to be able to pay kids from the communities a fair wage. They taught a total of 130 kids swim lessons this summer! They had new members from Greenville, New Boston, and even a family visiting from Virginia bought a membership. Ms. Agans asked if they were raising the cost for membership; Ms. Mogavero said it was on their agenda for their Board meeting. A membership for Wilton Lyndeborough residents is \$90; out of towners pay \$110. Ms. Agans noted that Goss Park hasn't increased their ask from the town for the past 10 years. Ms. Mogavero said the Board is looking toward a year-round building to provide more for the residents in the future. Mark Chamberlain asked what the split was between Lyndeborough and Wilton; Ms. Mogavero said 61% for Wilton and 38% for Lyndeborough; this is based on the members from each town.
- d. **Main Street** – Alison Meltzer presented their budget worksheet. They are asking for an increase this year from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Summerfest's costs went up and revenue went down. Vendors were down and they didn't ask for sponsors this time. The cost of fireworks has gone up and typically they split the cost with the Town. Also, they had to take out a liability special event policy for the first time. They'd like to update the holiday banners. They did a Winter Festival which was a lot of fun and they'd like to carry that on. They've also been co-sponsors of the Folk Café at the Community Center. They were approved for \$5,000 this year but have only taken \$3,500 which will be their total ask. Last year they did really well with their gaming fundraiser; they projected less this year; it's always hard to predict.
- e. **Community Center** – Donna Crane, Sandy Lafleur and Joanna Eckstrom presented the budget. Ms. Eckstrom noted that they have a small profit of \$736.50 this year. This year they didn't do a lot of events on their own, but rather in collaboration with the Wilton Collaborative Space. Ms. Eckstrom said these were all opportunities to engage the community moving forward. Ms. Crane said this was the inaugural year of the Collaborative Space. She gave an overview of what's been going on, such as yoga and meditation classes, self-defense course, string quartet, pickle making, etc. They feel it's been a really successful pilot. They are submitting a request for \$1,500 from the Town for the Wilton Community Center line. Regarding the Collaborative Space which they are looking into managing, they plan to continue having an employee and to rent the Second Congregational Church. Chairman Hughes asked about the Library's involvement; Ms. Lafleur said it will end at the end of this year. The agreement between the church and the library was extended through the end of the year; it will be renegotiated. Ms. Eckstrom has been looking into this to be sure that they can retain their 501.3c status. Once they get all of their ducks in a row, they hope to be able to come together as a group continuing the Collaborative Space mission which will be a separate ask. The Wilton Community Center will be the overseer of the Wilton Collaborative Center, Ms. Eckstrom noted. Ms. Crane noted that some towns fund their Community Center wholly in their budget, and others, like Dublin, are

privately managed and funded. Ms. Lafleur said it will cost about \$32,000 annually to run the Collaborative Space; rent is \$1,000 per month. Chairman Hughes asked them to return on December 20th for that budget discussion. Mr. Garcia said he is hearing that the Wilton Community Center would like to fund the Collaborative Space in their budget. If it can't sustain that, it should be a Warrant Article which would need to go before the Select Board. Ms. Zielie said she understands that it may cost \$32,000 annually to run the Collaborative Space, but that's not what they're asking for; Ms. Crane said perhaps half that. They'll be fundraising and they do have funds they've been socking away.

- f. **Small Donations** – Ms. Pack presented the Small Donations budget. Lamprey Healthcare's request has doubled; she will find out why. Most other requests have remained the same. She would like to fund Hundred Nights Shelter for the first time in the amount of \$500.

Ms. Zielie asked for more information on the Conservation Commission's budget and Eric Window explained that they thought they had more money in their LCHIP funds than they actually did. Mr. Window said a former bookkeeper misplaced some of the funds and put them in their TD account rather than the PDIP account and this was one of the things that he straightened out when he came on board. They overspent their Land Use Change Tax funds thinking it was LCHIP money. There was a lot of miscommunication between the Conservation Commission, the former bookkeeping staff and the Treasurer. Mr. Garcia also confirmed this and said that the money was supposed to be transferred into the PDIP. They have full authority to spend their LCHIP funds but these were Land Use Change Tax funds. Mr. Window said it's important to know what the funds are for and to manage them correctly.

6. Other Business – The next meeting date will be October 11th at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Garcia said the Select Board had an initial discussion about pay increase and there was an immediate response from the other Select Board members to go with a 5% COLA. Health insurance will also be increasing; a preliminary amount is 7.8%. The New Hampshire Retirement System will be decreasing their pension amount. He is concerned that this will be a difficult budget year. Mr. Garcia said that Mr. Germain has been making it very clear to the Select Board that the Stormwater budget will be increasing. Ms. Boissonnault asked if the pay rates for the entire town were reviewed; Mr. Garcia said he didn't recall discussing it in the Select Board's meetings. Ms. Eshback asked if the budgets should still go to Ms. Tuomala the Friday before the Budget Committee's meeting; she said Yes please. The Committee wondered what the Main Street Association's bank balance was.

7. Adjournment – A Motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Garcia and seconded by Ms. Boissonnault. All were in favor; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Pack, Recording Clerk