

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town Hall Courtroom
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2022

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

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and did the Roll Call.

2. **Review and Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2022** – Ms. Spittel moved to approve the minutes of November 15th, 2022; Ms. Tuomala seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes as written; motion passed.

3. **Public Comment & Questions:** none

4. **Town Administrator Update:** Mr. Germain said at the last meeting there were questions about the Planning Board's budget. He met with Karon Walker and they went over the budget together with Eric Window and sorted out the majority of the issues and decided how they'd like to proceed.

At the last Select Board meeting they signed the 5-year MACC Base Intermunicipal Agreement. The biggest increase was for Labor with a proposal to hire another full-time person. Mont Vernon also signed the IMA later that night.

We have found a truck for the Highway Department that looks like it will meet their needs. We're working with various leasing companies now.

Ms. Tuomala asked Mr. Germain to include her at the next meeting with the Planning Board as she is their rep. Mr. Garcia noted that the transaction for the Highway Truck will involve trading in the truck that it is replacing which has allowed us to negotiate a good deal. Ms. Spittel asked about the skid steer at the Recycling Center; Ms. Eshback said they are renting one now since theirs is still being fixed.

5. **Budget Presentations:**

- a. **Ambulance** – Chief Danielle Gardiner presented her budget saying it encompasses call volume from August 2021 to July 2022. There was a good-sized amount in the revolving fund and they are looking at using a portion of that to offset increases this year. Chief Gardiner said she used expenses from the previous 2 years to project her expenses for 2023. She noted that she has combined the Ambulance Building Repairs and Building Maintenance lines; they have completed all of the Life Safety issues so this line is less for 2023. Ms. Agans asked about the Lease line that Greenfield had requested last year; Mr. Garcia said that Greenfield did not bring up that change this year. Ms. Tuomala said the percentages that were given to

her add up to 101%; Chief Gardiner will check that. Ms. Boissonnault asked if the calls included Mutual Aid calls; Mr. Garcia said they did not. Mark Chamberlain said he believed that Chief Gardiner had done a very good job and that this was a very positive step. Mr. Garcia said that the Lease Payments will be paid out of the revolving fund. Ms. Spittel asked how the benefits changed and this was discussed. She also asked about the phone service; we are moving to TDS. We will confirm the number for the taxes, the benefits, the Property and Liability insurance, and the Workers Comp. Ms. Spittel asked about the Ambulance Equipment Purchase and Lease. Chief Gardiner said they're looking more at purchasing through Grants. Ms. Spittel asked about the Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance line decreasing; Chief Gardiner said they do have a diesel mechanic on staff now who they are utilizing for some in-house repairs. Ms. Tuomala asked about the RAD unit line which was partially funded through the Florence Wheeler fund. Kevin Boette from the Lyndeborough Budget Committee said this is the clearest, most concise budget he's seen presented in this building so far. Mr. Garcia added that the Wilton Select Board is focused on getting the new IMA signed by the partner towns and after that, we're going to discuss getting a new ambulance that would be in service in 2026. Chief Gardiner said that a new ambulance costs about \$400,000. Mr. Boette said it makes sense to purchase ahead of time and if you can secure a price and put down a deposit, that's a good idea as well. Ms. Tuomala asked about the Cardiac Monitors; the last payment is in 2025. Chief Gardiner said we are now billing for ALS provided without a transport. She also answered Mr. Spittel's question about Mutual Aid billings; we do bill the patient's insurance. She let everyone know about the \$2,000 donation received from Bob's Furniture. Ms. Agans asked if the Select Board had discussed a "floor" that they did not want the Ambulance Revolving Fund to fall below. Mr. Garcia said that has not been discussed. He does, however, think we're "underspent and over collected" in the current budget. He said that the Select Board can run their own mini audit every year to make sure there is always a certain amount in their account. Ms. Eshback said she had a conversation about the building at the Recycling Center and the roof, and she'd like to do an assessment.

6. Other Business – The next meeting date will be November 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Pack, Recording Clerk