

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

PHONE: 518-587-1939

FAX: 518-587-2837

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk
sbaldwin@townofwilton.com

OPEN BIDS: Gavin Park 2014 5500 Reg. Cab and Chassis

At 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Johnson called the bid opening to order. The Town Clerk opened and read the bid aloud. Three bids were received as follows:

Adirondack Auto Service, Inc. -\$41,871.00
Lia Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram-\$41,950.00
Main Motors-\$42,281.00

Supervisor Johnson stated the award of the bid should be subject to approval from Steve Porto, Recreation Director and John King.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-September 5, 2013

Immediately following the bid opening, Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Johnson led the board and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members were present except Councilman Pulsifer who was excused.

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor
John Lant-Councilman
Robert Rice-Deputy Supervisor

Steve Streicher-Councilman

Also present were: Town Comptroller Jeffrey Reale, Town Attorney Richard DeVall and Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper.

Supervisor Johnson noted congratulations were in order for the Wilton Rebels 12U Baseball Team as they were the 2013 Eastern New York Champions. The team was also won the 11U Championship last year. The head manager was Joe McClements and assisted by Eric Jackson and Mike Myers. The team consisted of Andrew Canjura, Kyle Hennessey, Kaden Learch, Rece McClements, Lee Gnau, Jon Irons, Quinn Leffler, Matt Myers, Terel Tillman, Jake Hart, Max Jackson, Ben Mason and Alden Schuster.

Public Comment Session

Supervisor Johnson asked if anyone had signed up for the public comment session.

Nancy Dwyer-*I am a Wilton resident and a Realtor. And as such I interact with a lot of residents regarding their property value, researching accurate market value for their property in preparation for fair assessments. In doing so, I have heard many complaints from residents about interactions with our assessor, Kathy Austin in addition to my own personal difficulties interacting with her.*

Instead of looking at data provided to substantiate claims, Kathy takes the stance that she can do what she wants because she is the assessor. There appears to be some kind of agenda or deep reluctance to consider that a property owner might actually have a point. Her reluctance to consider the facts presented is quite disconcerting.

I have serious reservations about her competence and interpretations of the law, processes and rules governing and guiding her actions and decisions. I have personally experienced several instances of her misinterpretations that have wrongly resulted in negative impacts on the residents, myself included. (The most egregious of these being the illegal practice of changing assessments based solely on sale price...otherwise known as "welcome neighbor" law.

It seems the assessor has the advantage of divide and conquer because individual homeowners don't have the collective knowledge of all that is going on nor do most individuals even understand the assessment and taxing process. We are busy working, raising families, and actually creating the fabric of community that draws people to Wilton. We rely on our governing body, you the board, and you Supervisor Johnson sitting at the pinnacle of this empire you have managed to assemble, innocently counting on you all to have our back so we can raise our families and grow our community. Why has it become necessary for us to police you?

I submitted a letter to the board before the August meeting expressing concern about the Board's, 3 month premature reappointment, of assessor Kathy Austin. Her term was through this month and you reappointed her in executive session at June's meeting to a 6 year term knowing full well there were issues with her conduct! I also requested a meeting with 2 board members and our assessor and was refused per attorney DeVall because I had indicated in my letter that legal proceedings were to come to light in August.

I am actually quite surprised that no one has contacted me to learn what it is I have to substantiate my alleged legal claim! Does non one care that something wrong might be going on under your roof? Is Kathy's lack of concern that she may be wrong just a symptom of an overall issue here at town hall? Should the citizens of Wilton have a larger concern that absolutely no one here gives a cahoot about our welfare and what is right for our town? Do you, members of our town board, keepers of our town, value us at all?!

You are sending a message that a resident property owner in this town of Wilton couldn't possibly know what she is talking about!

In the interest of following proper steps of action I am asking for a meeting before our next board meeting. I have already emailed our town attorney asking for a meeting and have not gotten a response. What our assessor Kathy Austin is doing cannot continue.

Sharon Milzoff said she is a resident of Wilton and wanted to compliment her interactions with the town's staff and departments. People complain but not very often do you hear compliments.

We thank the Buildings Department staff and leadership for their processing of our permit for a generator for our home.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We know that regulations exist to protect our health and safety as well as that of our neighbors. They aim to preserve the quality of life in our town. They also keep our contractors and vendors "on their toes to give us the products and services that we have purchased.

We had expected that there would be "red tape". If there were any tape, it was invisible. The service from the town representatives was exemplary.

Our compliments to the following people who were so helpful: Ms. Tammy Morgan, Mr. Mark Mykins and Mr. John Herlihy.

We have found that Wilton is indeed a wonderful place to live. Very truly yours, Brian and Sharon Milzoff.

Dennis Towers said three and a half years ago the Citizens for Wilton requested some resolutions from the town board in an email. It was formalized in the April meeting. Part of that was the public comment period, which did not exist. Another item requested the agenda published by Monday, we receive it on Tuesday. Items on the agenda will not be discussed unless an emergency, we are still working on that. We asked for a public address system and a live video webcast of the Town Board meeting. In addition, the recorded feed is made available for replay on public access. The live feed hasn't worked but we do have a broadcast. It is always on the second Friday after the meeting on PBS.

When the items were presented we were informed there was a PA committee to work on the audio system in the room. There were two bids for audio only. Mr. Towers said he has knowledge and has worked professionally with audio and video people. Tapping that knowledge, he said he secured bids for the audio and video systems within the budget proposed. He said he worked for months with Jeff Reale and Mark Mykins during the ordering, installation and debugging of the complete audio/video system. Mr. Towers said he personally connected the town with his contacts at Time Warner Cable to facilitate the broadcast from public access including the introduction to John Mucha, Time Warner Director of Government Relations. He stated that he continually works with Mr. Reale and Mr. Mykins to optimize the broadcast process. In his Saratogian article on Monday, Mr. Kingsley claims he is somehow responsible for the video on public broadcast. This, quite frankly, is fiction. One of the reasons for the initial request to implement the video broadcast is to provide transparency. Yet, in the article, he will expand broadcast to include our land use. In April, he said he asked if the board would oppose a formal request to videotape and broadcast the meetings so people can see for themselves. Chairman Dobis said the Planning Board had no problem with that.

Many citizens provide services for our town. We feel it is our duty as property owners and good neighbors to contribute. Mr. Towers said he contributes for the same reasons. He said he does not seek recognition or praise but he said he would not allow his efforts and contributions to be foddered for anyone's political campaign. As a candidate, if you do not have the efforts of quality to boast, then do more. Contribute to the community in a meaningful way. Taking the community service and efforts of others and claiming the result of those as your own speaks loudly and provides transparency.

Approve Pending Minutes

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #129

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2013 meeting as typed without amendment.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0

Friends of Gavin Park Naming Fees

Supervisor Johnson noted Friends of Gavin Park is now an official not for profit 501C3 and their mission is to raise funds for Gavin Park. Their mission is to raise funds for Gavin Park. Their contract to provide services was approved a few months ago. Friends of Gavin Park, through Steve Porto, Director of Park and Rec, have put together fees for various items for naming purposes and are looking for approval of the fees in order to fundraise. Councilman Lant asked if they were one time fees. Supervisor Johnson said some are one time fees and others are for a period of years.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #130

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Naming Fees schedule of Friends of Gavin Park (attached).

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

Committee Reports-None

Comptroller's Report

2. 2013 Budget Transfers and Amendments

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 133

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 9/5/2013 report to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

3. New Capital Project #444 2013-2014 Gavin Park Improvements

Jeff Reale stated at the last board meeting the Town Board appropriated \$750,000.00 for the capital project. The Supervisor requested town board approval for any project coming from this fund. The request for funds is for the Wilton Water and Sewer Authority to go out to bid for the installation of the water line at Gavin Park. Based on the cost, the board can decide to go forward with the water line. Deputy Supervisor Rice asked who secures the rights of way. Mr. Reale said Wilton Water and Sewer will do that. Deputy Supervisor Rice asked if it will go across the school property. Mr. Riper said it will and approvals have already been given. Supervisor Johnson said the school was very receptive of it.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #134

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Waterline Project at Gavin Park

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, Wilton Water and Sewer Authority will be soliciting bids for the water line project

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, Town of Wilton may contract with Wilton Water and Sewer Authority subject to an acceptable bid.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

4. Personnel

- a.) On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #135

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request submitted by Kathy Austin to attend the New York State Assessors Association Conference meeting being held in Lake Placid on October 1-4, 2013.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0

- b.) On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #135

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Patrick Gavin to the vacant permanent full time Building Maintenance position in the Park and Recreation Department, retroactive to August 30th at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, plus benefits.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0

- c.) On a motion introduced by Councilman Lant, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #136

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the notification, per the Personnel Policy, of Jeff Reale accepting the position of CFO for the Saratoga County Capital Resource

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0

5. Fire District Independent Audit

Mr. Reale noted, as required by law, the Town has received the 2012 Annual Audit form the Greenfield Fire District and it is on file with the Town Clerk.

6. Town Credit Card Policy and Procedures Manual

Mr. Reale stated the board members received a draft copy of the Credit Card Policy and Procedures Manual. At this time, the Town does not have credit cards. There have been instances when it would be nice to have. The draft copy is for review and if there are any suggestions, changes can be made to it. Deputy Supervisor Rice asked if there was a dollar limit on the card. Mr. Reale said and single transaction not exceeding \$500.00 unless there is prior approval. The credit card is issued to the employee and the employee will sign and affidavit to adhere to the policy. For instance, one can be assigned to the park with the director's name. The person with the name on the card would have to make the purchase. Councilman Streicher said the reason for the proposed policy is because there was a scheduled outing at summer camp and it was 98 degrees. The Park and Rec. Director made the decision to take the kids to the movie theater. Monies were required but this should solve that problem. Mr. Reale said there have been other instances where someone needed to buy something online. The policy includes a monthly report to be filled out and submitted to the comptroller's office. Councilman Streicher asked how a person would get prior approval for a purchase exceeding the limit. Mr. Reale said each card could have a \$5,000.00 limit but each purchase could have a \$500.00 limit. The cardholder could make an \$800.00 purchase but would violate the policy.

Executive Session-Postponed

Truck Bid Approval

Mr. Reale noted the board approved \$79,000.00 for the truck at the last board meeting. More money will have to be appropriated due to the bids that were received and the Oneida County Contract. The budget will have to be amended for \$2,033.00.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #130

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the low bid of \$41,871.00 from Adirondack Auto for the 2014 5500 Reg. Cab and Chassis subject to approval from Park and Rec. Director.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #130

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve transfer of \$2,033.00 from the Contingency Account (A1990.4) to the Parks and Recreation Account (A7110.2) for the 2014 550 Reg. Cab and Chassis.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Rice, and seconded by Councilman Streicher with all board members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

Councilman, John Lant

Excused Councilman, Robert Pulsifer

Deputy Supervisor Rice

Councilman, Steve Streicher