

TOWN OF WILTON

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REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-October 1, 2015

Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Recognition

Supervisor Johnson said he wanted to recognize a Town of Wilton Highway employee. He is also a lieutenant in the Wilton Volunteer Fire Department. Josh Petrie is being recognized for his efforts in saving a life on Tuesday. Mr. Petrie was working at the time the 911 call came in. A gentleman was in cardiac arrest at the Nové Restaurant. Mr. Petrie went in and with his CPR training, provided lifesaving CPR on the gentleman until the ambulance arrived. He actually saved his life. Mr. Petrie is here with us tonight. The following letter from the Town Board will be placed in his personnel file

We understand that on September 29 that you responded to a 1-Echo medical assist, full cardiac arrest call while driving for the Town of Wilton on Route 9. You relieved a man, not trained in CPR, and administered CPR to the gentleman until Wilton EMS arrived to take over. The Town Board would like to commend you for your quick action that saved this person's life. We are thankful for all employees that are volunteer firemen but your actions on September 29 deserve a special thank you.

Supervisor Johnson thanked Mr. Petrie for his tremendous effort. He said the board is very proud of him as well as all of our firemen and EMS personnel. Present tonight is Bill Morgan, Chief at Wilton Fire Department, Chief John Lant and Councilman McEachron. They are out there every day providing great service for the town. We respect all of our volunteers but tonight it's for Josh Petrie.

Roll Call

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members, except Councilwoman Klepetar, were present.

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor

Steve Streicher-Deputy Supervisor

John Lant-Councilman

John McEachron-Councilman

Also present was Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper, Town Comptroller, Jeffrey Reale and Town Counsel, Mark Schachner.

Public Comment Session

There was none.

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #154

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting, as typed.

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

Electronic Message Center Sign

Mr. Reale said on bid was received from Saratoga Sign Pros in the amount of \$29,229. It meets all of the bid specifications. **Deputy Supervisor Streicher** asked what was budgeted for the sign project. **Mr. Reale** said it was \$25,000. There is extra money in the budget line from two other projects. There is approximately \$30,000 available. If the bid is accepted, money is needed to build the base. It will be done in house for \$3,000 to \$4,000 in materials. The design is very similar to the Maple Avenue Fire Department sign.

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

RESOLUTION #155

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the bid for the electronic message sign from Saratoga Sign Pro in the amount of \$29,229.

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

2016 Tentative Budget

Supervisor Johnson said, as the town's budget officer, he has been working with the comptroller on the budget for the past month.

Supervisor Johnson said the proposed tentative budget for 2016 is just below \$7.8 million. It is a balanced budget with no use of the fund balance. There is zero money to be raised by taxes.

It is a flat budget with no large capital projects. Last year there were several large projects including the splash park and the maintenance buildings which will be completed by next year.

There has been no general or highway tax for the past 34 years. There are several towns that have no general tax but they have a highway tax. Fortunately we are able to have no town or highway tax.

There is a modest increase in the budget over 2015, 2% or \$169,000. There is a cost of living allowance of 2% for all employees. Gavin Park has equipment purchases funded mostly by the park reserve fund which is paid into by developers. The purchases do not affect the general fund in a negative way. \$900,000 was put into the highway budget, the same as 2015. The superintendent has made good use of the funding for road improvements. The allocated roads this year cost less than expected and additional roads were completed. Hopefully, 2016 will have the same results. We started paving shoulders which helps with pedestrian safety and bicyclists.

There are \$52,000 in upgrades to the town hall complex. The parking lot will be sealed and a few other small projects. There is \$65,000 for new highway department equipment for the loading of salt.

There is a five year comparison of the budgets and it has remained pretty flat. Many municipalities, like us, have to deal with the rising cost of healthcare and pension costs. The town of Wilton has been able to withstand it. Our employees and staff have contributed to that. For a town of our size, we have less staff than others. Malta has four or five building inspectors and we have two. Planning and zoning is handled by our engineer. Most towns have an engineer, an assistant engineer and two or three secretaries. We are able to get it done, in a very positive way, with one person. The assessment office has three people and most offices have five staff. By keeping payroll costs down, we are able to withstand the other increased costs of health insurance and pension plans.

The budget is broken down by departments. General government support is the highest cost, followed by employee benefits, parks and highway.

A majority of our revenue comes from sales tax and is the main reason we've had 34 years with no town tax. Sales tax revenue is based on a county formula. It's based on the taxable value of your town. Proportionately, the more taxable value, the more the town receives of the county sales tax revenue. We do not keep all of the sales tax revenue generated at Exit 15; it is shared with all of the other towns in the county. Fortunately, we have been growing moderately. We have been able to keep up our taxable value and maintain and increase our portion of the sales tax revenue which is the reason we don't have town or highway taxes. There are other smaller sources of revenue.

The town board will review the budget at the workshop on Thursday, October 8, 2015. This is a proposed budget and is open for discussion and changes. The public hearing for the budget will be on November 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Reale asked if all counties disperse funds back to their towns. **Supervisor Johnson** said most counties distribute the sales tax back to the towns but it is less than 50% of the revenue.

Supervisor Johnson asked if there were any questions. There were none.

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

RESOLUTION #156

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set the public hearing for the 2016 preliminary budget for Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

Mr. Riper stated the Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been updated by our consultant, MJ Engineering. Ms. Hakes is present for questions. The plan was updated by adding the Historical Preservation Board. There was a public hearing at the last meeting. We have added an appendix which includes all public comments in summary. We are asking the board to accept the Final GEIS document.

Attorney Schachner asked if there were responses to the comments. **Mr. Riper** said responses to the public comments are included in the update. **Ms. Hakes** noted the responses identify where the comments are addressed within the document.

Deputy Supervisor Streicher asked what the GEIS actually means. **Attorney Schachner** said it is a creature of a state law called the New York State Quality Review Act with the acronym SEQRA. This state statute requires analysis of potential environmental impact anytime any agency, state or local, is contemplating any decision that could affect the environment. Some may argue that the comprehensive land use plan has no direct effect on the environment but the prevailing view is because the comprehensive land use plan sets the stage for development that it is important that it be reviewed for potentially significant environmental impacts, just like projects review by the planning board and occasionally by the town board. When SEQRA review is done there are several results. One result would be there is no need to look at anything in close detail because there are no significant environmental impacts, known as a SEQRA Negative Declaration. That is a determination there is no need for an environmental impact statement. Very frequently and is the case now, when comprehensive land use plans are prepared or updated, there is a way for SEQRA review to be accomplished at the same time by preparing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement. In contrast, if a developer was building a substantial project, the planning board may say there will be significant environmental impacts and would do a site specific or project specific Environmental Impact Statement. The word generic means that it is not a particular project at a particular location analyzing a specific proposal but just looking at environmental impacts of a generic document and in this case is a comprehensive land use update. The SEQRA process does not allow a decision to be made on any action subject to an environmental impact statement until at least ten days after acceptance of the final environmental impact statement. If the board is comfortable that the final environment impact statement reflects the desires and will of the board in terms of the comprehensive land use plan, you can accept the final generic environmental impact statement, as complete, but cannot go any further until at least ten days have passed, during which time anyone can review the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement. Unless the board would like to convene in a special meeting for this, next month the board can approve the comprehensive land use plan update. The consultant will assist in the preparation of the SEQRA findings statement. It will certify that the comprehensive land use update minimizes adverse environmental impacts as much as possible.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution;

Committee Reports

Councilman Lant noted he, Jeff Reale, Sue Baldwin and Nancy Riely met at the Personnel Committee. Proposed changes to the policy should be available for the board to review.

Deputy Supervisor Streicher said the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park will be holding their annual fundraiser, Wild About Blue, at Saratoga National Golf Course on October 18, 2015 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Comptroller's Report

1.) July Cash Disbursements

General Fund	\$474,420
Highway Fund	\$441,847
Total	\$916,267

2.) 2015 Budget Amendments

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

RESOLUTION #158

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2015 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 10/01/2015 report (attached) to the Town Board.

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

3.) Personnel

a.

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

RESOLUTION #159

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation from Don Phillips, effective 09/28/2015.

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

b.

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

RESOLUTION #160

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for Jason Strong to increase his work day from 7 hours to 8 hours, effective 10/06/2015.

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

4.) Town Court Request of apply for JCAP

On a motion introduced by Councilman Lant, the board adopted the resolution.

RESOLUTION #161

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilton Town Justices request to submit a New York State Office of Court Administration 2015-2016 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant application; and,

WHEREAS, said grant application will be for funding to install new carpeting and new chairs in the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, said JCAP grant application must be signed by both Town Justices and the Town Supervisor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Wilton authorizes the JCAP grant application be made on behalf of the Town of Wilton.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Wilton authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the JCAP grant Application.

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

Discussion

Attorney Schachner said the Case property was given to the town. Two transfer documents, the TP-582 and RP-5217, should be provided to the town for review. Does the town want to get title insurance to know we are getting good title or not? **Supervisor Johnson** said the property is off Edie Road and connects some other lands. Mrs. Case has generously offered the parcel to the town. She wanted to keep her expenses down as much as possible. She had the deeds done and recorded them. **Attorney Schachner** said that was necessary and now Mrs. Case has the legal ability to convey the property to the town. The proposed deed was reviewed and looks fine. Usually the grantor completes the transfer documents. **Supervisor Johnson and Councilman Lant** agreed the town should have title insurance. **Supervisor Johnson** asked Attorney Schachner if he could complete the transfer documents since Mrs. Case paid for other fees for the deed and the recording. The board agreed title insurance was necessary.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron and seconded by Councilman Lant 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

Deputy Supervisor Steve Streicher

Councilwoman Joanne Klepetar

Councilman McEachron