

TOWN OF WILTON

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REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-October 2, 2014

Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:03 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 present.

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor

John Lant-Councilman

Joanne Klepetar-Councilwoman

Steve Streicher-Deputy Supervisor

John McEachron-Councilman

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

Supervisor Johnson said he would like to welcome the Wilton Rebels 11U All-stars, representing Wilton Youth Baseball. The Wilton Rebels won the Cal Ripken 2014 Eastern New York State Championship. It is a tremendous achievement that takes a lot of hard work and dedication and Town of Wilton is very proud of all of the players. The Wilton Town Board would like to recognize the team for their efforts. The players are; Ethan Bowers, Ben Bremer, Jordan Catone, Bryce Emery, Quentin Grieco, Aidan Khoury, Joey Martuscello, Christian Mercado, Garret Myers, Evan Owens, Greydon Parker and Jack Wiggin. Every great team also has great coaches. The manager and head coach is Greg Grieco, Larry Catone, coach, Mike Emery, coach and Mike Myers, coach. It is an honor to present a plaque: *Presented to Cal Ripken, 2014 Eastern New York State Champions, Wilton Youth Baseball, Wilton Rebels 11U ALL STARS. CONGRATULATIONS from the Wilton Town Board to the players and their coaches on this great achievement.*

Coach Grieco said each of the boys signed a baseball and would like to present one to everyone.

Supervisor Johnson thanked the team.

Public Comment Session

Dennis Towers said his household is always represented at the board meetings. The first issue is the school sign. The concern is that there are cases pending in New York about that. We should wait to see what happens with that. The second concern is what is that teaching the kids? You follow our rules but we will follow what we want. The second issue is with the Comprehensive Plan. He said he is wondering if the board learned anything from the zoning changes. A scorned person is not a good person to deal with. He said he didn't feel as though there was enough town involvement allowed in it. The only place for people to actually speak and participate and have a voice is via online. Is that correct? **Mr. Riper** said there are also public hearings. **Mr. Towers** asked if you could actually talk at a public hearing. **Mr. Riper** said you can. **Mr. Towers** said at the meetings themselves there is no public input. **Mr. Riper** said the meetings are committee meetings for developing the draft. **Mr. Towers** asked if a full schedule is available for that. **Supervisor Johnson** said yes and they are open meetings. **Mr. Towers** said when the Comprehensive Plan was done; there was a town wide mailed survey. The concern is being able to attend one of two public hearings is that you are disenfranchising part of the population. 22% of the population in Wilton makes under \$30,000 so they may not have a computer. 10% of the population is over 65, they may not know how to use a computer. 35% is the 40 to 65 year olds. The concern is getting everyone's voice. It is the future of the town.

Mr. Towers said he didn't think the board should wait to improve some of the zoning changes that were made last time until after the Comprehensive Plan. The density is too high. The density was changed from 8 (dwelling units per acre), the town approved projects that had a density of 12 and changed it to 12. Now it is up to 15. It is almost double. The Comprehensive Plan reflects what it wants it to be. He said he didn't feel what we have now represents that. He said he wouldn't hold on that and let more damage be done. Let's see what people want done and develop the Comprehensive Plan and then move forward with that. The third item is the Wilton Food Pantry. They have been growing at an unbelievable rate. We are now servicing 285 families within the borders of Wilton. As of Wednesday, October 1, 2014, we have distributed groceries equal to 19,989 meals. It is getting to be a lot of work and we need more volunteers to help us out. It is an all-volunteer organization that is self-funded. We have set up a couple of relationships that have taken years to develop. One is with Hannaford which took two years dealing with corporate Hannaford that resulted in a complete corporate wide policy change. We are now getting meat, bakery and bread items. We share that out with other pantries. When you start a pantry, the first six months you have to be self-sustaining. You don't get any support from Regional Food Bank. That is a tough period we went through with very little support. We are focusing specifically on helping pantries get through that as well as sharing out with pantries throughout the county. Consider going to the website, wiltonfoodpantry.org, and signing up to volunteer. We do need your help.

Nancy Gatland said last month at the town meeting, EPC Solar gave a presentation on using alternative sources of energy. It is important that the town consider going solar. Let's not dismiss this without fully researching all the possibilities of using renewable sources of energy. We need to start relying on these renewable sources. We have to do something about our constant use of fossil fuels. Solar is just one we could go to. The possibility of generating a good portion of Wilton's electricity should certainly be an impetus in doing this. The possibility of saving \$29,000 per year is a lot of money. There are a lot of people that don't make that much money in a year. It is something that has to be considered. Thank you.

Barbara Collins said she wanted to discuss and bring attention to the law and code violation of outdoor open burning. Section 49-2, burning of trees, leaves, needles, branches, lawn and garden yard waste. Section 49-4b, Fires exceeding five feet. Section 49-5a, no burning of land clearing/cleanup on less than two acres. Section 49-5d, New York State burn ban from March 16-May 14. Section 49-5e, The Fire

Marshall is not posting a fire prohibition during dry periods like we are having right now. Section 49-7a, loss of enjoyment of my property, lack of courtesy, toxic smoke and embers damage. Section 49-7b, Fires are not extinguished. Section 49-8 There is no enforcement. Section 49-9, There are no penalties for offences.

The Town has laws and codes that are supposed to protect my life and my property. None of these laws are being enforced. I have no quality of life, loss of enjoyment in my yard, loss of fresh air, harm to my health and damage to my property. I have the added stress upon leaving my home for any length of time for the fear of not having a house to come home to. No one in my neighborhood calls the fire department due to the lack of enforcement. I have no protection from the Town of Wilton as all the laws of open burning are violated and blatantly ignored. I hope all of these serious violations will be addressed. I ensure if this was going on by your house you would be as frustrated and scared as I am.

Supervisor Johnson noted Ms. Collins submitted an additional letter to the board. Ms. Collins said she sent the email out early this morning and it is a copy of it.

Bob Gatland said a little later there will be a presentation about the Greenbelt Trail. Several years ago he said he and his wife went to Austria. They biked from Passau, Germany to Vienna on a dedicated bike trail. It would be like biking from Saratoga Springs to New York City. That is the kind of bike trail system they have. He said he hoped the board would listen and realize the importance of building up the infrastructure of trails and bike trails. It is really incredible being on a dedicated bike trail where there are places to stop to eat and inns to stay at.

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #134

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2014 meeting, as typed.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Klepetar, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Saratoga Green Belt Trail

Douglas Meyers, Chairman for Saratoga Greenbelt Trail Committee, thanked the board and Councilwoman Klepetar for inviting him to present an overview of the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail. The idea for the Saratoga Greenbelt trail emerged from a lunch conversation with Jeff Olsen. We looked at the small trails that exist in and around our community. They are nice little trails but they really didn't connect to anywhere. As bikers and runners with families, we thought how could we possibly connect the smaller trails into a larger network that could function for both recreation and transportation. There are green areas that are trails that actually exist (indicating). There are dotted areas. We hired a firm, with private funding, to map out and look at the engineering implications for how you would actually

connect the trails into an actual network. The plan was approved by the City of Saratoga Springs earlier this year. People think this is a good idea due to the recreational aspect. It's great to get out to run, bike and walk. People then turned to the environmental reasons. A bigger driver is quality of life by the millennium generation. The millennium generation defines quality of life with walkability and bikeability. This is the largest generation with the lowest level of car licenses we have ever seen. It is a shared economy and people want to choose to drive, walk or bike. The big driver is the economic reasons. The tech generation wants to be in the communities where we see this. We were able to generate a committee. We are all volunteers. We connected with the groups that are already out there that had common ground in this. One group is with the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce with Todd Shimkus. We are losing our younger generation right now. We are doing pretty well attracting people 50+. If we want those tech jobs and high level jobs, this is a good way to do it by improving the quality of life. Jim Letts and the YMCA are big supporters as well as Maria Trabka of Saratoga Plan and Barbara Glazer, a local philanthropist. We are really seeing all of this coming together. We have had some initial success. There is a light at Railroad Run that allows you to cross and an extension was built with the help of Todd Shimkus and Peter Goutos. There is tremendous bike and pedestrian traffic. The YMCA is very supportive. They see a lot of people go to the facility and run in Spa State Park. We are seeing a lot of interest in the trail. Tom Newkirk from Saratoga National Golf Course spoke in our favor during the approval process from Saratoga Springs City Council. There is an easement that runs across Saratoga National Golf Course that we are looking at as a possibility of a bike and pedestrian trail. At Exit 15, the New York State Department of Transportation putting in a new bridge over I-87. They approached the city and said they knew there was a complete street policy and will be putting in a 10' wide separated bike and pedestrian lane over the bridge. We are going piece by piece. It is a community effort. Whenever there is a developer along the way whether it's the Racino or the new parking deck, we stay agnostic on what the development is. We let people know and we talk trail. It has been tremendous to see the amount of interest and excitement around this, especially from the business community. With the Exit 15 link, there may be an opportunity for the Town of Wilton to further connect the communities. There is a federal grant, state money being regranted by the federal government, that we should know by next week if it was granted for the Geyser Road spur. It becomes a circulator and communities can connect into it to get to the places people want to go. There is a possibility of connecting to Gavin Park. There are a couple of engineers and a city planner in Saratoga Springs that are very involved. If there is interest from the Town of Wilton, we welcome you to the conversation, if not consider this an informative as to what is happening down the road.

Supervisor Johnson asked where the trail would connect to Wilton. Mr. Meyers said there are a couple of places. The plan is open for consideration. The engineers are looking for opportunity. Eventually, the plan calls for a tunnel under I-87 at the Spring Run Trail and we think we are going to get it. When the state asked if we wanted a bike and pedestrian lane at Exit 15, we would have connectivity towards the Wilton businesses around the mall and possibly around Loughberry Lake. There is a dirt road from North Broadway that runs to the back of the Maple Avenue Middle School. Upstate Auto Body on Route 9 has a group of employees that ride bikes to work. They ride eight miles per day only at 11:30 or 2:30 because they get nervous. There is also an area that a mountain biking club that turned in area into destination for mountain biking. There are a lot of opportunities and it would be up to the Town of Wilton as to how they would like to connect into it. **Mr. Riper** asked where the Exit 15 pedestrian/bike lane is terminated. Mr. Meyers said it ends at Excelsior Avenue on the Saratoga Springs side and the New York State DOT on the Wilton side. We would love to expand that further. The whole idea is to get people to the places they want to go. We are going to try to get people to the Hannaford Plaza and ideally further to the Wilton Mall. It could be on street bike lanes or separated paths. On street bike lanes are much cheaper and our roads are being paved wider to accommodate them. We have some engineers that have been very generous of their time. If anyone has been to New York City and seen the

bike share system, Jeff Olson’s company runs that. **Supervisor Johnson** asked who was providing the funding for the tunnel under I-87. Mr. Meyers said there is no commitment for the tunnel but pretty certain it will be approved. **Supervisor Johnson** asked who would approve the tunnel. Mr. Meyers said it would be the state. The effort to date and the engineering plan are available on line on the website has all been privately funded. There is now a commitment from Mayor Yepson for \$50,000.00 per year and are hopeful that commitment will grow. There is a lot of interest from business owners as well. **Nancy Dwyer** asked how Wilton residents could start a group to focus on moving the plan forward in the Wilton area. Would they contact Mr. Meyers? **Mr. Meyers** said people are welcome to contact him. It is up to the Town of Wilton to decide what the Town of Wilton is going to do. We have put in some ideas that can cross over into Wilton. We do see this as an opportunity to connect communities and neighborhoods. If there is a committee that is specifically interested in Wilton, we have a committee structure, not a formalized committee. There is a management group and Skidmore College participates. Our meetings and notes are always open if there is a Wilton community group that wants to go to the meetings or be involved. The website will be sgtrail.org, right now the best way is through Facebook at Facebook/SaratogaGreenbeltTrail. **Dennis Towers** said this is the perfect opportunity to get this into the trail systems with the update of the Comprehensive Plan. He said he was hoping the comprehensive plan update committee was going to ask for a citizen’s committee to provide input as well. If you don’t we may do it anyway. He said he would like to see it formalized and coming from the town. It was done before. If we aren’t going to do a town wide survey, this is a perfect way to work into it. **Councilman McEachron** said it should be a town wide vote if the people of the town want it. **Mr. Towers** agreed. The licenses are the lowest number in years. **Mr. Meyers** said if you talk to people at Skidmore College, one of the big attractions when choosing a school is the idea you don’t have to be car dependent. It is about making it work for the individuals. You have the choice to walk, bike or drive. We are hoping for a 10%-15% load share in Saratoga Springs. It reduces the stress on parking and people tend to have better experiences. **Mr. Towers** said the use of recreational facilities probably increases. **Mr. Meyers** said he sees a lot of possibilities. There will be a linkages study in Saratoga Springs led by one of the City Planner’s, Kate Maynard. If there is interest, she would welcome that input. **Supervisor Johnson** said there is a pathways and trails plan already in place. We can look at that and see how it may work into the Greenbelt Plan. **Mr. Meyers** said if there is any way they could help and work together for mutual benefit, we would be very open to that.

Recognition of Deceased Veterans

Supervisor Johnson said October is Wilton’s month to honor deceased veterans through the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency. We have chosen three brothers from the Town of Wilton; John Jay Burns, Sr., William George Burns and James Ernest Burns. There are three proclamations, one for each, which will be presented at the ceremony to the family. The ceremony will be on October 21, 2014 at 2:30 at the Saratoga County Municipal Center.

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

RESOLUTION #135

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to
approve the proclamations honoring;
John Jay Burns, Sr.
William George Burns
James Ernest Burns

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED, the Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Wilton will present the families with the proclamations on October 21, 2014 at the Saratoga County Municipal Center.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed to 5-0.

2015 Tentative Budget

Supervisor Johnson said there is a report put out by the New York State Comptroller's Office that indicates fiscal stress on various towns, cities and counties within the state. They evaluate data on each on the municipalities. They use fiscal indicators and other criteria to determine, financially, how the municipalities are doing. They then rate the municipalities as significantly stressed, moderately stressed, susceptible to stress or no stress. For each of the deficiencies found, based on the criteria, the municipality receives a point that counts against them. The Town of Wilton scored a "0" level of stress as compared to the average of "11.5".

Supervisor Johnson said he and Comptroller Jeff Reale have been working on the tentative budget for the past 6 weeks. It is a summary presentation and the entire budget is on the website. The total budget for 2015 is \$7.6 million dollars. It is once again a balanced budget. Each year's budget officer and supervisor, the budget has been a balanced budget. The revenues have been estimated conservatively. Typically, our revenues exceed our expenses. That is how we have been able to build a surplus fund balance over the years. The special district number is the tax levy that Wilton Emergency Squad will receive for their budget. It is a separate district and the amount has nothing to do with the town budget.

This is the 33rd year with no general fund property tax or highway tax. The 2015 budget has slightly increased over the 2014 budget, specifically \$278,000. It is not attributed to any one item, it is a variety of items. Operating costs are higher. There are some projects that will be done in 2015. The highway department has an additional \$100,000 over last year. The budget includes a 2% cost of living adjustment for all employees. There is \$65,000 for various equipment purchases at Gavin Park which will be funded through the park reserve fund. The reserve fund is what developers pay \$1,000 per unit built. The monies are used for improvements at the park. There is \$81,500 in repairs at Gavin Park. There is \$900,000 in road improvements which is \$100,000 over last year's appropriation. There is \$49,000 in upgrades at the town hall complex. Over a five year period, the town budget has remained relatively flat. The monies spent are in government support, employee benefits, highways, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, general transportation and public safety (indicating on chart). Our money is received through sales tax which is estimated to be almost \$6,000,000 for 2015. Departmental revenue, state aid, which is the mortgage tax, forfeitures and fines, licensing and permits (indicating on chart) are the other sources of income. The tentative budget will go to the full town board. There will be a budget workshop at 5:00 p.m. on October 6, 2015 in the conference room and it is open to the public. We look forward to another good year. There will be public hearing on November 6, 2014 on the preliminary budget.

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

RESOLUTION #136

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing at 7:00 on November 6, 2014 for the 2015 preliminary budget.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed to 5-0.

Resignation-Zoning Board of Appeals

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

RESOLUTION #136

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of David Buchyn from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed to 5-0.

Supervisor Johnson said there is a need for volunteers for the Wilton Zoning Board, Wilton Planning Board and the Ethics Advisory Board. If anyone is interested they should send a resume to the Sue Baldwin, Town Clerk.

Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan

Supervisor Johnson stated Nancy Riely, Town Safety Officer and Nash Alexander of the Wilton Emergency Squad put the plan together. It is required by the state.

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

RESOLUTION #136

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher,

duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed to 5-0.

Committee Reports

Supervisor Johnson announced the Wilton Heritage Society will be hosting their annual Apple Pie Social on October 19, 2014 from 1:00p.m to 4p.m. at 5 Parkhurst Road.

Supervisor Johnson said he forwarded the board an invitation from the Fire Advisory for training at their training center.

Comptroller's Report

1.) August 2014 Cash Disbursements

General Fund	\$426,842
<u>Highway Fund</u>	<u>\$242,981</u>
Total	\$669,823

2.) 2014 Budget Transfers and Amendments

(See attached) Budget Transfers

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

RESOLUTION #137

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 10/02/2014 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 5-0.

3.) Gailor Road Tree Removal

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

RESOLUTION #138

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve purchase order, not to exceed \$13,665, for the removal of trees from the Gailor Road project.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

4.) Personnel

a.

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

RESOLUTION #139

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from Kathy Austin for overnight travel to Lake Placid on October 5-8, 2014.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

b.

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

RESOLUTION #139

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to ratify their decision to approve the request for Steve Porto to attend a conference in Charlotte, NC on October 14-16, 2014.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

5.) Truck #6 to Auction

Jeff Reale noted there was an additional request from Mark Mykins to send the 2006 Jeep Liberty out to bid with a minimum bid with truck #6, a 1993 dump truck going to auction.

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

RESOLUTION #139

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the sale of a 2006 Jeep Liberty and a 1993 Ford dump truck.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

2013 Greenfield Fire District Audit

Mr. Reale stated the 2013 audit for the Greenfield Fire District is on file with the town clerk. The Greenfield and Wilton Fire Department budgets are also on file in the town clerk's office.

Other

Deputy Supervisor Streicher thanked Supervisor Johnson and Mr. Jeff Reale, Comptroller for their work on the budget. There will be budget meetings on Monday beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room. The public is welcome.

Executive Session

Supervisor Johnson said there will be an Executive Session for two personnel matters involving the performance of particular individuals.

Deputy Supervisor Streicher made a motion to adjourn for Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lant, with all board members in favor. The motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Lant made a motion to reconvene at 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, with all board members in favor. The motion carried 5-0

Supervisor Johnson said there no action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Councilman Lant and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

Councilman, John Lant

Councilwoman, Joanne Klepetar

_____ Deputy Supervisor, Steve Streicher

_____ Councilman, John McEachron