

# TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

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## Public Hearing:

## 2015 Preliminary Budget

The following Notice of Public Hearing was advertised in the Daily Gazette, The Post Star and the Saratogian newspapers.

### 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** That the Town Board of the Town of Wilton, New York, County of Saratoga, will hold a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Wilton for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015.

**SAID PUBLIC HEARING** will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall located on 22 Traver Road in said town at which time all persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

**SAID PRELIMINARY BUDGET** will be completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Wilton at 22 Traver Road where it may be examined by any interested person during regular business hours.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN LAW, SECTION 108, PROPOSED SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS ARE LISTED BELOW:**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Supervisor              | \$24,500 |
| Councilman (4) (each)   | \$13,104 |
| Highway Superintendent  | \$71,540 |
| Town Clerk/Tax Receiver | \$53,040 |
| Town Justice (2) (each) | \$32,270 |

### BY RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WILTON

At 7:05 p.m., Supervisor Johnson called the public hearing to order and asked the Town Clerk to read the public hearing notice aloud. Supervisor Johnson said the preliminary budget was introduced last month that totaled \$7,609,673. The town board had budget workshops following the preliminary budget. As a result of the workshops, \$101,069 was added to the preliminary budget. The proposed budget schedule to be adopted is \$7,711,642. The budget has been on the website and copies are available. **Supervisor Johnson** asked if there were any questions or comments.

**Dan Tagliento** said they are doing a good job at Gavin Park. There is some underwriting of the costs of Parkfest and would like to see closing the gap so it doesn't have a cost to the town taxpayers. Is there a place in the budget for Parkfest? The second question is how the Friends of Wilton program is doing. **Supervisor Johnson** said there is a budgeted amount for Parkfest along with revenue anticipation through sponsorships. **Mr. Tagliento** asked if there is a place online to check the expenses. **Supervisor Johnson** said the expenses for Parkfest are budgeted for. There is a revenue side, through sponsorships, that offsets the cost to the town. **Mr. Tagliento** asked if any companies or corporations have donated to Friends of Gavin Park. **Supervisor Johnson** said Saratoga National Bank recently donated \$6,000 towards a new scoreboard in the gym. There is a "buy a brick" program which is doing well. Benches have been sold in memory of loved ones.

**Connie Towers** said economic opportunity is approximately 3% of the budget. She said she is looking for programs for the aging. The elderly are usually the last to ask for help. We see this with our numbers at the pantry. What are the programs that make up the \$20,160? **Mr. Reale** said part of the money is the reimbursement to the county for Meals on Wheels. There is \$1,000 for the Wilton Food Pantry. There is also money set aside for the Senior Center for materials like ceramics and other items. **Ms. Towers** said there are people that come to the food pantry that have hit hard times. The elderly should get something back after their service to the town. At some point it maybe there could be some training or something else that could help them get over the economic downturn. **Supervisor Johnson** said there is information on programs on the town's website and at the county to help assist in home heating and exemptions to help reduce senior's property tax. There are more programs on the state and county level. **Ms. Towers** said the food pantry refers people in need. The budget line wasn't itemized so there was no way of knowing how it was broken down. With such a large budget, the seniors should be taken care of. **Deputy Supervisor Streicher** said there is also a transportation program for the seniors. It helps seniors get to doctor's appointments. The Office for the Aging is a great contact. **Supervisor Johnson** asked if there were any other questions. There were none. **Supervisor Johnson** closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-October 2, 2014**

Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:15 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.

Public Comment Session

**Geof Hoffman** said he wanted to thank the town for purchasing pizza on Election Day for the polling people. Most of the workers were there at 5:30 a.m. and left at 9:30 p.m.

**Bob Gatland** said he went on a field trip last week to Malta to look at the 300 plus apartments there. There are four stores and an estimated 10% occupancy. Wieble Avenue was about the same with four stores and 10% occupancy. In three or four years, will the development on Route 9 have two, three or four stores? 10% occupied? The challenge is what can be done about it to enhance it. The Saratogian had an article about how Malta is coming up with a new scheme on how to get the stores rented. It's plan b since plan a failed. It would be nice to have some bike paths and sidewalks to lead up the corner of Northern Pines Road. Maybe the hamlet would become a stronger possibility if there were more stores to walk and bike to and not have to take the car. There has to be a critical mass of stores and commercial property before people start to really use it. **Supervisor Johnson** said hopefully the developers can fill the stores. There is a lot less retail space on Route 9 compared to Malta. There will be sidewalks, as a requirement, through the area.

**Barbara Colins** said she was before the board last month and is back because there have been no changes. People are burning yard waste in the neighborhood. A letter was sent out to some of the neighbors and that did nothing. The letter also says there are no consequences or fines. Over the years, no one has ever been fined for illegal fires. It is pretty clear there is a disconnect as to what the codes are and how they are being interpreted by the firemen and the Town of Wilton. Since it's been a month no one has gotten back in touch. Councilwoman Klepetar did visit the neighborhood and saw the brush and how high the flames were. The trees are burnt 50'-75' high in the air. It's hard to believe until you see the evidence. It is still a problem and she said she is here to protect her rights so she can enjoy her property, open the windows and not have damage to the house. She said she is asking to get clarity on the codes so they can be enforced.

We also have a dog warden that has had to be called on several neighbors. No one ever gets fined even though there are codes. Unfortunately she said she goes through the process all of the time with research, documents, calls to the dog warden, file the paperwork and go in front of the judge only to be told by the judge "don't waste my time". The person not following the law does not have the dogs licensed and leaves them outside all day. The dog warden doesn't have the right to fine them.

Winter is coming and there is so much salt and sand used. The neighborhood is flat. The snowplows come onto the property and knock over the bushes. The neighborhood doesn't have proper storm drains; they are literally holes in the ground. The previous engineer said the highway department would use more salt so the drains wouldn't freeze and the properties wouldn't flood. People had to get sump pumps back in 2008. Now we have tons of salt and sand which is damaging the property. We need some changes.

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #144

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the minutes from the October 2, 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.

**2015 Preliminary Budget**

**Supervisor Johnson** said there was a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the 2015 preliminary budget and are there any changes or amendments. **Council McEachron** stated the judges requested a 4% raise and would like to recommend a 3% raise.

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

**RESOLUTION #145**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve a 3% raise for David Towne and Gerald Worth.

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** asked if there were any other recommended changes. There were none.

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

**RESOLUTION #146**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the 2015 preliminary budget with the amendments.

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.

**Local Law #3 of 2014-Veterans Disability Exemption Law**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated the proposed Local Law #3 of 2014 would allow veteran's disability payments to be exempt from income requirements for the STAR program. Currently the disability payments have to be included in determining what the threshold is.

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

**RESOLUTION #147**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing for the Veterans Disability Law (LL#3 of 2014) on December 4, 20174 at 7:00 p.m.

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

**White Pine Lane**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated the assessor has requested to change the assessment roll to correctly reflect the name of White Pine Lane.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Klepetar, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #148**

**WHEREAS**, a certain street within the Town of Wilton named White Pine Lane has been commonly referred to as Loughberry Court and exists erroneously on the tax rolls of the Town of Wilton as Loughberry Court; be it now

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby resolves that the street commonly referred to as Loughberry Court be changed and hereinafter named White Pine Lane; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the street referred to as Loughberry Court on the assessment rolls of the Town of Wilton be changed to White Pine Lane on said rolls; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately

and that the Assessor of the Town of Wilton be authorized to make the aforesaid changed to the Town tax roll.

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

**Amendment to Resolution #111**

**The Mill at Smith Bridge**

**Attorney Schachner** noted Resolution #111 accepted the roads in The Mill at Smith Bridge but should have also included the utility easements on Lots 64 and 65.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Lant, the board adopted the following resolution contingent upon Town Counsel review:

**RESOLUTION #149**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to accept the following roads in the Mill at Smith Bridge Subdivision as town roads, conditioned upon final sign off by Town Engineer, Town Highway Superintendent and Town Counsel:

**Portion of Cider Mill Way**

**Waterwheel Drive**

**Saw Mill Court**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** to accept utility easements over Lots 64 and 65

**FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED**, the Supervisor of the Town of Wilton and Town Counsel is authorized to execute any documents in connection with the acceptance of the road and easements.

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

**Solar Power**

**Supervisor Johnson** said there was a solar presentation two months ago. Since that time, the town is pursuing other vendors. **Mr. Reale** said he reached out to another vendor that was recommended by the Supervisor. Last week a proposal was received by that vendor and it was a lot better than the proposal presented to the town board in September. He said he will meet with the vendor with Ryan Riper, Mark Mykins and anyone else that would like to sit in. Hopefully it will be next week. **Mr. Riper** said he met with NYS DEC at the landfill to discuss it being a potential site for solar power. NYS DEC is in acceptance of the plan will review any proposals as to not penetrate the cap of the landfill. **Supervisor Johnson** said the NYSERDA funds are still available. The town is still pursuing solar power and it is a viable option. **Mr. Reale** said additional grant money will be available at the beginning of the new year.

**Committee Reports**

**Deputy Supervisor Streicher** said he was honored to be a part of the deceased veterans program presented by Saratoga County Veterans Service and presented to the Burns Family. Three brothers were honored; John J. Burns, Sr., William George Burns and James Ernest Burns were honored. It was unique to have three young men from the same family enter the military just a few years apart. They served and defended our country with honor and distinction. All three were fortunate to come home safely and become active and productive members of our community. Jeanine Woutersz, Town Historian, was a great help as well as Nancy Riely, Secretary to the Supervisor.

Gavin Park will have the annual tree lighting on Friday, December 5, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Maple Avenue Fire Department will be there with Santa Claus. There will be a meet and greet with Santa and the Wilton Baptist Church Choir will be there. Everyone is welcome.

**Councilwoman Klepetar** said all of the volunteers for the RUOK program are in place to make calls. There is still a question on how to target the specific audience the program is looking for. The Saratoga County Office of the Aging said there is a possibility the applications will go out with Meals on Wheels. The Wilton Food Pantry may also have some names of seniors in need. If anyone else has any ideas how to locate people most in need of being called if there is an emergency, please leave their name. **Supervisor Johnson** said the information is on the website. An ad can be placed in the Wilton Report.

**Councilman Lant** said there are openings on the Planning and Zoning Boards. The seats need to be filled. We had an interview tonight.

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

**RESOLUTION #150**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to appoint Scott Kingsley to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals 11/6/14-12/31/14.

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

**Supervisor Johnson** said the Empire Center for Public Policy came out with a local government websites report card for 2014. The focus was on the fact that 85% of the municipalities failed the test. The Town of Wilton was graded as the best website in the town’s category. There were over 500 town, village, county and school websites rated. Only three others scored higher than the Town of Wilton. All of the websites were from different regions. We were voted number one in the Capital District. We received perfect scores in public meetings, financial reports, taxes and fees, expenditures and facilities and services. There were bonus points received for the videos of the Town Board meeting being on the website. Jeff Reale and our consultant, Spanet deserve to be congratulated for the work on the website. **Mr. Reale** said the department heads deserve credit for keeping the site current.

**Comptroller’s Report**

**1.) September 2014 Cash Disbursements**

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>        | <b>\$240,306</b>        |
| <b><u>Highway Fund</u></b> | <b><u>\$490,240</u></b> |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$730,546</b>        |

**2.) 2014 Budget Transfers and Amendments**

(See attached) Budget Transfers

**Deputy Supervisor Streicher** said the recreation program overages from summer camp and afterschool programs are supported by corresponding revenue. As of November 5, 2014, the department has deposited over \$480,000, which is \$25,000 more than the 2014 amended revenue budget and nearly \$50,000 more than the original 2014 budget. The recreation department is doing very well. If there are any questions, Steve Porto, Park and Recreation Director, is available for discussion.

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

**RESOLUTION #151**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller’s 11/06/2014 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.) Personnel**

**a.**

**Mr. Reale** noted Gerard Zabala is an alternate. A few years ago and a previous town board disallowed alternates for the Association of Towns. Discussion was held.

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

RESOLUTION #152

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to approve overnight travel requests from:

**Arthur Johnson**  
**Steven Streicher**  
**Ryan Riper**  
**Jeffrey Reale**  
**Sue Baldwin**  
**Gerard Zabala**

to attend the NYS Association of Towns held in New York City on February 15-18, 2015.

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 #153

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to ratify their decision to hire Erin Bowers as part time Clerk in the Justice Department, with a starting rate of \$12 per hour, no benefits, effective October 21, 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.

**c.**

**Supervisor Johnson** said there is a proposed change to the Personnel Policy. ½ time employees with over 30 or more years of experience would get their health insurance paid in full. Currently, they get ½ of their insurance paid.

RESOLUTION #154

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

**WHEREAS**, the current personnel policy states half time employees pay for half of their health insurance premiums; be it now

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby resolves that the current personnel policy shall change to reflect the Town of Wilton will pay 100% of health insurance premiums to half time employees with 30 or more years of service; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect on 1/1/2015.

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

**4.) DCO Truck to Auction**

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

**RESOLUTION #155**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to ratify the decision to auction off the 2001 Chevy 10, ID#1036 used by the Dog Control Officer .

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

**Adjournment**

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Streicher, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman, John Lant

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman, Joanne Klepetar

\_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Supervisor, Steve Streicher

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilman, John McEachron