

TOWN OF WILTON

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REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-September 6, 2018

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

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor

Steven Streicher-Deputy Supervisor

Duane Bogardus-Councilman

John Lant-Deputy Supervisor

John McEachron-Councilman

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

Public Comment Session

Pat Tuz, 2 Amanda Court said she just wanted to comment on the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Wilton. The events have been a series of well put together events and everyone really appreciates the history and the uniqueness of this town. With that said, some of the recent building in the town will make this unique town not so unique. She said she felt compelled to speak about the Cumberland Farms. It is a giant addition to Maple Avenue. Do we really want Maple Avenue to turn into another Route 50? She said the zoning laws were relaxed to allow more lighted signs and more chains along that stretch of Route 50. It would be a shame to have more chain stores and more lighted signs all the way up that route. There is still time, because there is a lot of stuff for sale there, to reconsider the zoning and maybe go back to the way it was. She said she always viewed that stretch of town more for local businesses. Maybe we could attract more local businesses and restaurants which really would add value to our community and our home values. Ms. Tuz said she wanted to speak about Eric Rosenberg. He is sometimes unruly and unorthodox, because she said she has been on the receiving end of that but she

said she had to work through it. She said she realizes he has a lot of value because he's a smart guy, works hard and he's very caring about the community. She said she was sad to see the police came. It got a little out of hand and it's just not necessary. He works hard, he works at the food pantry, he's on the board for Shelter of Saratoga and, if you listen to him, he makes some very good points. He's not a Democrat, she said probably because of her. In no way is his behavior political. You might really appreciate him and he might be better with no raised voices, if you listen to what he has to say.

David Buchyn spoke and submitted a letter.

My name is David Buchyn. I live at 201 Heritage Way and I am the Chairman of the Wilton Republican Committee.

Last year the Town of Wilton had the most competitive local election in recent memory. Five of the six local offices that were on the ballot were contested. The Wilton Democrats goal was to give the voters a choice after a number of years of not running candidates on the Democratic line.

Both the Wilton Republicans and the Wilton Democrats put up good candidates. A public debate was held. Campaigning was spirited. On Election Day, voters made their choices. The residents of Wilton chose the people that are now here running this meeting.

As it turned out, the Wilton Republican Committee had endorsed all six of the winning candidates. What does the Wilton Republican Committee look for in a candidate? We endorse candidates that support limited government, low taxes, and fiscal restraint. We endorse candidates that support property rights, managed growth, and effective and efficient services. We endorse candidates that are community minded and that are interested in maintaining the high quality of life that we have here in the Town of Wilton. Wilton voters chose our endorsed candidates, and for that show of support, our committee is grateful.

At the December 2017 Town Board meeting, my counterpart, Pat Tuz, the Chair of the Wilton Democratic Committee, congratulated all of the candidates on a well-done campaign this year. She said, "All candidates displayed such good character and that is something that is sorely lacking in many of our officials." I wholeheartedly agree with Pat and echo her comments. Over the past year, I have gotten to know Pat, and she is a committed, smart, hard –working town chair. Although we may disagree on various policies, I do not doubt her or her committee's commitment to the Town of Wilton.

At this time, it is important that we all respect the will of the people and the choices the voters made last November. Voters have the opportunity to revisit their choices every two years, and next year we will again have local elections. In the meantime, let us all work together to make the Town Wilton the best it can be.

Thank you for your time.

Eric Rosenberg, 16 Crow Lane spoke and submitted a letter.

I would like to thank some of the members of the board who have met with me over the past few weeks to discuss some of my questions and concerns. I hope the dialogue can continue. However, it is also important to turn these discussions into action.

Whether people like it or not, Wilton is no longer a small town, and, and it is only getting larger. It just isn't appropriate to run things the way they were when we were a small town. Moreover, the fact that things have been done the same way for years does not mean it's the right way to do things into the future.

Much of my attention has been focused on the manner in which the planning and zoning boards are making their decisions.

According to Mark Schachner, the Town's attorney: Decisions of the planning and zoning boards are to be made solely on information which is presented, reviewed and discussed at open public meetings, and are to be made on the administrative record-application, documentation, supporting materials, public comments (written and verbal), discussion among members, applicants and the public.

I've been going to the meetings-and here's what I've learned: In many instances, there is little or even no administrative record being created for review. For example, with regard to the renewal of special permits, there are no official procedures, there is no documentation being created, and there is nothing to indicate that there is any due diligence being done.

What is the point of having special permits renewable if there isn't going to be any official documented due diligence to determine if a property is still in compliance with the requirements for having a special permit?

Besides being a good business practice, there are many other reasons to establish official written procedures and documentation:

- without procedures and documentation, there is no transparency in government, there is only secrecy.
- No procedures and documentation gives rise to claims of bias and favoritism.
- Without procedures and documentation there is no way to know how or why something was done. People should be able to go to a file and be able to see how and why something happened from the documentation in the file.
- Without procedures and documentation there is possible exposure to town officials who will not be able to clearly establish how and why something was done.

One would think that having official procedures in place, and requiring that matters be documented, would be a no-brainer. Yet, there continues to be substantial resistance to what appears to be an obvious business practice.

One last issue and question:

I have not gone out looking for issues to raise. I go to meetings, I do a little homework, and these are simple issues that are easy to spot. Yet frequently, I am the only one in the room who is aware of the issue. I think I know why.

The root of every issue I have found has been the same. The planning and zoning boards are not being provided with information they need to make decision. Due diligence hasn't been done, basic information has not been obtained, inspections have not been done, state laws and local ordinances are not being complied with, and so on. Sometimes, it seems that things are just being made up. At the root of every one of these issues is that the zoning officer for the Town of Wilton has not done his job and the evidence is overwhelming.

So here is my question: why does the Town of Wilton continue to employ a zoning officer who is clearly not doing his job? Moreover, no one seems to hold the zoning officer accountable for anything, or even willing to hold the zoning officer accountable for anything. I ask about this man, and people seem to be afraid of him, or feel intimidated by him. So I will ask again, why does the Town of Wilton continue to employ a zoning officer who is clearly not doing his job?

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #131

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2018 meeting, as typed.

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

Reappointment

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

RESOLUTION #132

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the reappointment of William Campola to the Board of Assessment Review with a term of 10/1/2018-9/30/2023.

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

Committee Reports

Supervisor Johnson said there are three Signature Bicentennial Events coming up. The first being the Wilton Historic Home tour on September 16, 2018. It is from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. The self-tour guides are at the Historical Society Museum. They can be picked up the day of. **Supervisor Johnson** encouraged everyone to take part and have this opportunity to view these homes. People who live in these homes have opened up for all of us who care to visit.

On September 20, 2018, we are burying a time capsule. It is currently in the lobby. There are different documents we will be placing inside. There will be a ceremony at 3:00 p.m. and the capsule will be buried by the flag in front of the court building.

On September 23, 2018, the Taste of Wilton is a new event which will bring together a collection of farms, restaurants, wineries, and distilleries under a tent at Gavin Park. It should be a great event and encouraged everyone to attend. The last event, Dinner at the Elks Club, will be December 29, 2018. Tickets will go on sale on October 1, 2018.

Comptroller's Report

1.) 2018 Budget Transfers

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

RESOLUTION #133

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2018 budget transfers

requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 9/6/2018 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

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

2.) Personnel

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

RESOLUTION #134

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to ratify the appointment of Lisa Closson to the vacant full time Senior Clerk position effective August 28, 2018 at a starting rate of \$16.89 per hour.

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

Proclamation

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Town of Wilton, New York was established on April 20, 1818 and therefore the Town celebrates its Bicentennial with a series of events throughout the year. The Town of Wilton has a rich history and we recognize the men and women of our community who were instrumental in the founding of our town. Happy 200th Birthday to the Town of Wilton and its people.

WHEREAS, The year 2018 will be a year of remembrance and celebration as the **Town of Wilton** takes pride in its Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, In commemoration, the **Town of Wilton** planned a series of special events designed to encourage the citizens of this township to pause, reflect and remember our history; and

WHEREAS, The **Town of Wilton** was founded on April 20, 1818 and held its first Town Board meeting in March, 1819; and

WHEREAS, As a community the **Town of Wilton** has witnessed tremendous growth which has created the quality of life we enjoy today; and

WHEREAS, A bright future lies ahead in the **Town of Wilton** for our children and grandchildren because of the forethought and hard work of many; and

PROCLAIMED, I Arthur J. Johnson, Supervisor of the Town of Wilton, do hereby proclaim and dedicate the Time Capsule in celebration of the Town of Wilton's 200th Birthday to be buried on September 20, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of the Town of Wilton this 6th day of September, 2018

Executive Session

Councilman Streicher made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons and or matters leading to the appointment, employment and or promotion of a particular person or corporation. **Deputy Supervisor Lant** seconded the motion with all board members in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilman McEachron made a motion to reconvene at 7:52 p.m. **Councilman Bogardus** seconded the motion with all board members in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

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

RESOLUTION #135

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the letter of retirement from Lucy Harlow, Executive Secretary of Planning, effective September 28, 2018.

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

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

RESOLUTION #136

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the promotion of Amy DiLeone into the position of Executive Secretary of Planning at a Grade 6, Step 3 rate of \$22.14 per hour effective October 1, 2018.

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

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

RESOLUTION #137

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the provisional appointment of Ross McNeil to the vacant Assistant Recreation Director position effective September 6, 2018 at a starting rate of \$22.14 per hour.

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

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

RESOLUTION #138

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the letter of retirement from Jeffrey Reale, Comptroller, effective 10/4/2018.

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

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

RESOLUTION #139

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Maria Moran, CPA to the position of Comptroller at a

yearly salary of \$88,000, effective October 22, 2018.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Lant, 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 Lant** all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

Deputy Supervisor, Steve Streicher

Councilman, John Lant

Councilman, John McEachron

Councilwoman Joanne Klepetar