

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

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Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-August 1, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Lant 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.

John Lant-Supervisor

John McEachron-Deputy Supervisor

Duane Bogardus-Councilman

Erinn Kolligian- Councilwoman

Ray O’Conor-Councilman

Also present was Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper, P. E., Comptroller, Maria Moran, CPA and Mark Schachner, Town Counsel.

Public Comment Session

There was none.

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #192

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2024 meeting, as typed.

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

Surrender Day Resolution

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #193

WHEREAS, on October 17, 1777, British General John Bourgoyne surrendered his sword to Patriot General Haracio Gates, marking the first time in history that a British army ever surrendered; and

WHEREAS, this historic moment, known as the Turning Point of the Revolutionary War, happened in Saratoga County and saved the American's war for independence; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor the heroic patriots of the past and the generations of Saratoga County public and private citizens who secured and commemorated the Turning Point, victory; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga County will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga and Turning Point victory in 2027; and

WHEREAS, October 17th has been celebrated in communities surrounding the sword surrender site as "Surrender Day" for more than one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, we wish to elevate this commemoration to a countywide holiday to commemorate the Battles of Saratoga, the siege of the British Army, and its ultimate surrender to the Patriot Army; and

WHEREAS, a commemoration as such will facilitate the appropriate deference to the substantial impact the victory had on the founding of the United States of America and the future prosperity and manner for which citizens in the public and private sectors may honor its legacy for generations; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such holiday in public communities across the region in appreciation of the Saratoga Campaign and its heritage will promote regional pride and tourism; and

WHEREAS, we encourage the countywide recognition of Surrender Day by providing any town, village, or city that adopts October 17th as an official holiday to be known as an Affiliated Community Partner of America's Turning Point; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Town Board of Wilton proudly proclaims October 17, 2024 as Surrender Day in Saratoga County in recognition of the Turning Point of the Revolutionary War, which happened in Saratoga County and saved the American's war for independence.

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

7 Sarro Lane

Deputy Supervisor McEachron said Councilman Bogardus visited the site the day before. Not much was done. He said he spoke to Mrs. Germond and she said she put a lot of items in the trailer today. The van has been removed and the trailer has been there for a week. We did have some rain and storm damage. He said he didn't want to ask for another thirty days. She now has someone to help her. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said he told Mrs. Germond the trailer has to be filled and it doesn't matter how many times. He said if he has to go over and fill it himself, he will. He will need permission to load it. This has been going on for a long time and has been an ongoing issue. He said he is not making excuses. Supervisor Lant said if the board gives Mrs. Germond another thirty days, that is it. Councilman O'Connor said it is the final thirty days from today. If it is not 100% clean, that is it. Councilman Bogardus said this has been twelve years. He said he was directly involved in a fatal fire in Ballston Spa because the occupant was a hoarder. She couldn't get out. He said he risked his life, as well as other fireman, trying to get her out. Supervisor Lant said firemen get killed in hoarder situations and he has been trapped in fires. Councilman Bogardus said he was stuck in debris three feet deep looking for her. He said he took pictures of 7 Sarro Lane yesterday. The roof is collapsing as well as the ceiling on the inside. He said he has pictures of the ceiling hanging down. Firemen have to go into the building even if people say the building is unoccupied. It is not unoccupied until the fire department goes in and confirms it is and no one is trapped. The firefighters he worked with in the fire in Ballston Spa were tangled up in a lot of stuff that collapsed. It was a very high risk situation for everybody to find out the woman perished in the fire. We jeopardized a lot of firefighters by trying to go into the house and get her out. He said he knows Mrs. Germond does not live in the house but someone is going to get hurt trying to put a fire out. He apologized but this has been going on for twelve years. Yesterday, no progress was made so the day we are voting on this, Mrs. Germond went over and did something. He said he cannot accept that. Mrs. Germond said she has been there every day. Councilman Bogardus said nothing is in the dump trailer. Mrs. Germond said she has been taking it to the dump. Councilman Bogardus said stuff is being moved from one place to another. Councilwoman Kolligian asked Mrs. Germond if she had receipts from the dump that we asked for, for the last two months. Mrs. Germond said no because she is using the trailer. Councilman Bogardus said there was nothing in the trailer as of last night at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Germond said she was there after 4:30 p.m. and again today with a helper. Councilman Bogardus said he cannot allow for extensions. Deputy Supervisor McEachron made a very welcoming offer. That trailer has been there for a week and a half. Councilman Bogardus said there were ten days the trailer was there and nothing was in it. Today, when this is coming to vote, Mrs. Germond now says she's made progress. He said that is not progress. It stormed a couple of days and it has been hot for a couple of days. He said if he knew his house was coming up for this type of action, he would be out in a typhon trying to clean up the property, Mrs. Germond has not and it has been twelve years. Councilwoman Kolligian said Mrs. Germond stated there was nothing in the trailer because she had been taking it to the dump. She asked Mrs. Germond if she had been taking it to the dump. Mrs. Germond said not since last week. Councilwoman Kolligian asked if she has done anything in the past month. Mrs. Germond said she has. She said before the trailer was put on the property, she was taking things to the dump. Councilwoman Kolligian asked Mrs. Germond if she had receipts as we had asked to show garbage was taken to the dump. Mrs. Germond said no but she knows she has. Councilwoman Kolligian said the board doesn't know. For sixty days we have been asking for receipts every time items are taken to the dump in

order to show you are making progress. Councilman Bogardus said the board can move forward with going out to bid for the cleanup and delay it if significant progress is made. He said he will move forward with the cleanup of the property at the expense of the town and put a tax lien on the property. Maybe this will be the motivation needed. If there is real, significant progress we can delay that. We need to keep moving forward because this is becoming more and more of a problem in communities.

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

RESOLUTION #194

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the bidding process for the demolition and site cleanup of 7 Sarro Lane.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor except Deputy Supervisor McEachron, who abstained. The motion passed 4-0.

Standard Workday Reporting

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

RESOLUTION #195

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Standard Workday Reporting for Chad Jerome, Town Justice.

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

Selection of Engineering Firm

Ryan Riper, Director of Planning and Engineering said the committee selected two firms to move forward with to get fee proposals and scope of work. We met with the two firms, walked the facility and discussed what will need to be done with stormwater, the wash bay and storage of equipment. The two firms provided a fee proposal based on the work, the committee has looked at it and they are recommending McLauren Engineering Group.

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #196

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the proposal submitted by McLauren Engineering Group for the Facilities Master Planning and Improvements.

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

Grant Award-Louden Road

Mr. Riper, Director of Planning and Engineering said the town applied for a grant for the Highway Superintendent to fix Loudon Road culvert near Ingersoll Road. It was almost \$900,000 for the project and we received a grant and hopefully the project will be completed next year.

Proposed 2024 WWPP Grant Agreement

Councilman O’Conor said the grant agreement is very similar to last year’s agreement. He asked if the agreement should be approved in context of our budget process for 2025. Ms. Moran said this is a 2024 agreement and the 2024 budget has already been passed. In 2025 we will be doing the same thing. She said she is envisioning the contract language will be very similar in 2025. In the beginning of the process, Ms. Olson had provided very detailed information related to what was the cost of the potential town grant. It is an amount that exceeds the \$87,550 and she wanted to have a narrative to relay it actually costs more to provide services to the town for programming and services to town residents. The 2024 agreement is very similar to the 2023 agreement.

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #197

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2024 Grant Agreement with Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park.

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

Comptroller’s Report

1.) 2024 Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #198

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2024 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller’s 8/1/2024 Report to the Town Board.

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

2.) Internal Review

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #199

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2023 internal reviews conducted by the Comptroller.

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

3.) Refund Request

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

RESOLUTION #200

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from Peter Belmonte to a refund of \$5,775.00 for engineering fees due to the conservation subdivision being withdrawn.

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

4.) Personnel

a.
On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #201

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for overnight travel for Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk, September 14-16, 2024, to attend the NYS Town Clerks Association Quarterly Regional Meeting and Education Session in Chautauqua, New York.

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

b.

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

RESOLUTION #202

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for overnight travel for Katie Coons, Town Historian, September 16-18, 2024, to attend the annual conference of the Association of Public Historian of New York State in Port Jefferson, New York.

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

c.
On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #203

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for overnight travel for Michael Monroe, Highway Superintendent, September 24-27, 2024, to attend the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Conference.

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

Committee Reports

Deputy Supervisor McEachron said Skippy and the Pistons will be playing at Gavin Park on August 7th, Fenimore Blues on August 14th, River Junction on August 21st and Vinyl Vault on August 28th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Supervisor Lant said he’s received a lot of great feedback from residents. The new stage was donated by Peter Belmonte. The board thanked Mr. Belmonte.

Supervisor Lant appointed Councilman Bogardus as Chairman, Nash Alexander, Michael Hewitt, Paul Coneski, Zack King and Nate King to the Town of Wilton Emergency Services Review Committee.

Councilman Bogardus said the Town of Wilton Emergency Services Review Committee met on Monday, July 29th and will meet on the last Monday of every month. The committee is evaluating the Town of Wilton because it is growing, commercially and residentially. We are looking at emergency services provided by the EMS service and fire department services. We are reviewing what we have done historically and how we balanced budgets. Last week we had the Town Engineer meet with us to discuss the projects currently planned, approved projects, future planning and “rumored” projects. We are trying to be proactive as far as budgets, personnel and equipment. It wasn’t that long ago the maximum height for buildings in Wilton were at a two story maximum. We are now up to four stories so we are planning for equipment. The committee includes a Chief from Wilton Fire Department, a Chief from the Greenfield Fire District, Operation Chief from Wilton Emergency Squad, an administrator budget officer for a commercial ambulance company.

We are moving forward and inviting various town personnel like the assessor, comptroller and supervisor. Budget season is coming up. There are currently three projects which will most likely increase the town's population by 2,500 residents. We are trying to be proactive instead of reactive to the projects coming into the town. We may expand membership on the committee but at this point we are keeping the committee small.

Councilman Bogardus said he has been invited to a Capital Region Round Table facilitated by the Association of Towns on Wednesday, August 14th. It will be held at the Saratoga County Public Safety Building from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Councilman O'Connor said the project on Northern Pines Road with new trails and the fishing station has been approved by DEC for our wetland mapping. The LA Group is trying to set up a meeting with DEC to do a field walk.

Councilman O'Connor said he will be meeting with Katie Coons, Town Historian, to discuss Historical Preservation projects we possibly have.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron and seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, with all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, John J. Lant

Deputy Supervisor, John McEachron

Councilman Duane Bogardus

Councilwoman Erinn Kolligian

Councilman, Raymond O'Connor