

# **TOWN OF WILTON**

**22 TRAVER ROAD**

**WILTON, NEW YORK**

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Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

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## **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-October 5, 2021**

Supervisor Lant called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 5:00p.m. He said the public hearing for the proposed Local Law #3 of 2021, No Smoking on Town Properties has been postponed and will be rescheduled for November.

### **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 the following board members present.

John Lant-Supervisor

John McEachron-Deputy Supervisor

Duane Bogardus-Councilman

Erinn Kolligian-Councilwoman via ZOOM

Ray O'Connor-Councilman

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

### **Public Comment Session**

There was none.

### **Approve Pending Minutes**

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

#### **RESOLUTION #184**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting, as typed.

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

### **WWPP Quarterly Report**

Margo Olson of WWPP noted there are 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reports available. Ms. Olson said this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wilton Wildlife and some people in this room were involved early on with the founding of Wilton Wildlife Preserve Park. The vision of the people of the Town of Wilton with our partners, NYSDEC and the Nature Conservancy and putting the idea of this whole organization together, she said she is thankful for the vision and the work they put in. For 25 years we have been able to work so well together with our partners to be able to provide so much for the community and look forward to being able to continue this partnership. We thank the town and our partners for their support for all of these years. Camp Saratoga looks amazing with the work that was done this past summer. There is a new bridge coming and looking forward to the ice rink. The work done by Scott Harrington and Roy Vanderbogart shows the commitment the town has in making it a special place for the community. Looking ahead, we will be having a fundraiser coming up, Wild About Blue at the Wishing Well restaurant. We look forward to seeing people and celebrating. Bob Rice, a former Wilton Town Board member, Wilton Planning Board member, Wilton Rotary president and member and he has done so much for the community. We are pleased to be giving him the Metamorphosis Award which honors people who have made transformative changes in our community. Mr. Rice exemplifies that with the work he has done in so many organizations, in so many organizations and ways in the Town of Wilton for many years. On our quarterly report, there are a lot of great numbers. So far this year, we have done 150 public programs, 40 alone in the third quarter such as Nature Arts Hour, painting, different kinds of nature walks. We had 80 school group programs to date, 50 camp programs this summer with 21 of those at Gavin Park. We worked with many other camps in the area. We worked with 8 interns this year, both college and high school students and helped them with their goals. The numbers are good, but it has been a tough year. She said she just received the forgiveness letter for the PPP Grant. Even with the \$25,000 we received from the grant, it has been tough to be able to make everything work but we are committed to keeping our staff, Torie and Erin. Erin is starting her 5<sup>th</sup> year with WWPP and Torie is celebrating her 4<sup>th</sup> year. It is very important to us, to our board to be committed to keep our staff going even with all of the difficulties this year. We were able to keep our staff employed. We were able to keep our numbers up in terms of the number of programs we were able to do so the public did not have any negative impact even though we were impacted ourselves, as an organization. We are working hard to keep the mission strong as we have for the past 25 years in the community.

Ms. Olson said we receive an operating grant from the Town of Wilton. The board has had a long term commitment to keep the programs free for the community, Gavin Park, Ballard and Dorothy Nolan Schools. 75% of the programs that we do are presented free. We are able to do that with fundraising like Wild About Blue and through support from our partners, like the Town of Wilton through the operating grant.

Margaret Damo asked if there is a website for those not attending Wild About Blue but would still like to donate. Ms. Olson said it is [www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org). We normally have a silent auction but last year we had an on-line auction, and we will do that again this year. If you are not attending the event, you will be able to go on-line and see all of the great items. Supervisor Lant said he is still pursuing a grant from Saratoga County.

**Resignation-Wilton Planning Board**

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

**RESOLUTION #185**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to accept the resignation of Michael Coleman from the Wilton Planning Board, effective October 5, 2021.

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

**Appointment-Board of Assessment Review**

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

**RESOLUTION #186**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the appointment of Michael Coleman to the Board of Assessment Review, to fulfill the vacant term of 10/05/2021-09/30/2023.

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

**Appointment-Wilton Planning Board**

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

**RESOLUTION #187**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the appointment of Chris Price to the Wilton Planning Board as an Alternate to fulfill the vacant term of 10/05/2021-12/31/2021.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian duly

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

**Local Law #3 of 2021, No Smoking on Town Properties**

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

**RESOLUTION #188**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on November 4, 2021, for proposed Local Law #3 of 2021, No Smoking on Town Properties Law.

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

**Appointment-Park and Recreation Commission**

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

**RESOLUTION #189**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Chad Jerome to the Park and Recreation Commission to fulfill the vacant term of 10/05/2021-02/05/2023.

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

**Land/Road Dedication**

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

**RESOLUTION #190**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to accept the following parcels from William and Judy Morris along Tom Sawyer Drive:

**114.20-1-99, .15 Acres**

**115.17-1-27, .02 Acres**

**115.17-1-28, .01 Acres**

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

**2022 Tentative Budget**

**Supervisor Lant** said he is happy to report for the 40<sup>th</sup> year, there is no town tax or highway tax. He thanked Ms. Moran for another great job on the budget.

Maria Moran, Comptroller said the town board has been presented with the 2022 Tentative Budget. The budget is balanced, meaning budgeted revenues equal budgeted expenditures. We did not use prior year fund balance to balance the budget, which is a characteristic of a structurally sound budget. It is something we strive to do. Our general fund has \$5,500,000 of budgeted appropriations and the highway has \$3,400,000 of budgeted appropriations for a total town-wide of \$8,900,000. Some of the key points, as Supervisor Lant has mentioned, it is our 40<sup>th</sup> year the Town of Wilton has no town tax. We have a balanced budget with no use of surplus. There is no significant change from our budget from the 2021 amended budget. We are planning for \$590,000 in road improvements and approximately \$331,000 in new highway equipment. We have a \$100,000 safety initiative and a \$45,000 new fuel pump system to replace an antiquated system. We have a copy of the tentative budget on our website as well as in the Town Clerk's office. Governmental support and other functions is 23% of our budget to include employee benefits, road improvements and culture and recreation. Our budgeted revenue is comprised of over 75% of non-property tax, which is very important to note, our town relies on sales tax to balance our budget. Town boards have been very fiscally conservative over the years and that has allowed us to grow our fund balance and provide the services to our community without using fund balance to balance our budget. We are having a budget workshop which is open to the public, on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. For more information you may contact the Comptroller's office and the number is on the slide and also available on the website.

Councilman O'Connor said Ms. Moran presented an overview of the tentative budget but the detail and analysis she goes to is exemplary. It is very well done. Ms. Moran also mentioned the importance of sales tax. Please shop local. You not only support local businesses but the sales tax stays here. You not only help the local business, but you also help yourself because the money recirculates back into the local economy.

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

**RESOLUTION #191**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing for the 2022 preliminary budget for November 4, 2021 at 7:01 p.m.

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

**Committee Reports**

Councilman O'Connor said Ryan Riper and folks from Saratoga Plan were out on the Community Forest last Saturday looking at trail design. Mr. Riper said there were ten or eleven people on the site, mostly Saratoga Plan board members. Steve Ovitt was there, and he is a well known trail designer in the area. He was there looking and talking about the trails. For people who have traveled up in the hills, they know its is a very unique site. There are old mines and the remnants of the buildings. They are turning it over to the Community Forest and will eventually be open to the public. The Town of Wilton and the Town of Greenfield pursued a grant from Saratoga County and received it. The grant will improve the parking areas on Route 9 and the Wilton Greenfield Road. It is coming together and is good for the community.

**Comptroller's Report****1.) 2021 Budget Transfers**

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

**RESOLUTION #192**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the 2021 budget transfers requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 10/5/2021 Report to the Town Board.

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

**2.) Personnel****1.**

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

**RESOLUTION #193**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the donation of unused leave time from Jason Strong to another employee who will be out for an extended period, in accordance with leave policy.

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

**2.**

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

**RESOLUTION #194**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the request from Highway Superintendent Woodcock to have Dan Salmonson temporarily assume the role of working supervisor, and an additional \$1 per hour during that time, while an employee is out for an extended period.

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

**3. Other**

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

**RESOLUTION #195**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Town of Wilton authorizes the Wilton Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2021-2022 grant cycle up to \$30,000.

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

Supervisor Lant noted his Confidential Secretary's son was involved in a very serious car accident Sunday night. His name is Joe and hope he is on the mend, and we keep him and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

**Adjournment**

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor and seconded by Councilman Bogardus, all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

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Supervisor, John J. Lant

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Deputy Supervisor, John McEachron

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Councilman, Duane Bogardus

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Councilwoman, Erinn Kolligian

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Councilman Ray O'Connor