

TOWN OF WILTON
February 3, 2026
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Members Present: David Leavitt, Tiffany Maiuri, Keith Swett, Nancy Allen, Phil Hilton, Maria Greeley (Town Manager), Aaren Wilcox (Town Clerk)

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT www.mtbluetv.org)

Item #1- Pledge of Allegiance

**Item #2- Wilton/Jay PD Collaboration Presentation (See attached presentation packet)
Lee Ann Dalessandro, Jay Selectboard Chair, opens presentation**

The Committee is only providing review of data at this presentation. David clarified that the Q&A during this meeting will be between the Collaboration Committee and Selectboard, not to the public. David provided an outline of the PD Collaboration Committee Members.

Town Managers will review after this evening's presentation.

- Chief Joe Sage, Jay PD, begins review of presentation
 - a) Review of staffing issues and drop in officer recruiting numbers over the last 5 years
 - b) Sign on bonuses implemented to encourage recruitment
 - c) Challenges faced were contracting services, merging of the staffing and the diminishing level of services
 - d) Discussions between the towns began and the PD Collaboration Committee was formed
 - e) Shared use of the ACO (Animal Control Officer)
- Nancy asked for clarification on what the ACO is. Chief Sage stated the ACO is the Animal Control Officer

With both departments using shared resources and cross-training, this would offset the burdens faced. The departments are equally operating under low capacity. Chief Sage reviewed the 2024-2025 major routes vs. call volume. Jay PD was fully staffed in 2024, with Wilton having one (1) vacant position.

- The part-time ACO is utilized by both Wilton and Jay
- MDEA (Maine Drug Enforcement Agency) is State funded
- SRO (School Resource Officer) is funded 75% by RSU 73 and is sworn in to Franklin and Androscoggin Co.

Both of the department's budgeting and operating schedule is very similar.

Collaboration Committee's Research and Findings:

Option #1: Take No Action (See attached presentation reference, page 11)

The Pros of taking no action would be retaining current individual town's identity, with business continuing as usual.

The Cons would be the remaining current needs of each PD, partnered with the ability to locate and retain qualified LEOs (Law Enforcement Officers)

Option #2: Contract with Franklin County Sheriff's Department (See attached presentation, page 12 & 13)

The Pros to contracting with the FCSO (Franklin County Sheriff's Department) would be larger coverage with more resources and manpower.

The Cons would be a year-to-year contract, loss of local municipal identity, municipal officers not guaranteed to be hired by FCSO, displacing officer.

(The FCSO has drafted a proposal for review; see attached resources)

Chief Sage noted that the budget numbers will not be accurate after 2026.

-Nancy asked what the response time is for FCSO

-Chief Sage stated there is not a listed response time for FCSO, as there would need to be a base station. He added that the FCSO does not typically provide coverage at night, with officers responding from the distance of their personal residence

-Tiffany asked what the current clearance rates of cases are

-Chief Kyes provided the rate of 55.56% clearance rate for Wilton; a 20% higher rate than state average

-Chief Sage states the clearance rate for Jay is very good

-Tiffany asks what the clearance rate of FCSO is?

-Chief Kyes says he will have to review; clearance rates can be found on the FBI NIBRS website online

Total Pros: 28 Total Cons: 8

Option #3-Contract to one town (see attached presentation, page #15)

-Chief Kyes explains that one town will hold decision making abilities for the other town.

Both PDs combined, there are 300 years of experience (W:150/J:150). There are currently 3 other towns that are contracting as well.

This option would recommend that Jay and Wilton would be divided into three patrol Zones, with Zone 1-Wilton, Zone 2-Jay, Zone 3-Rt. 2, Rt. 4. Rt.133, Rt. 156-Supervisor. (See Zone chart on page18)

-The scheduling structure (see page 19) would include an added Detective, with Lt. covering Saturday shift

-Chief Kyes explained the input time that it now requires for reporting, detailed narratives of arrests, processing, etc. With the ability to spread it out over more manpower, the burden would be lessened.

(See resources attached for payroll budget, page 20)

This option would offer a total of 17 positions.

Option #4-Quasi-Municipal Corporation (resource page 22)

-Chief Kyes explained this option as regionalization, having shared authority without the towns merging. It would be its own entity, controlled by both towns with a committee or board oversight. There would be attorney fees for initial set-up.

-Chief Sage posed the Major question of, is Quasi-Municipal Option legal? Is this option recognized through our Judicial system? The District Attorney was consulted and felt that this option would absolutely be recognized.

The start-up is easy to predict, but not easy to define.

-Chief Kyes stated that the District Attorney spoke to the committee previously and suggested that the local identity of the PD be retained
The Zones remain the same as in Option #3, with total staffing at 18.
See scheduling structure in attached resources.
The payroll budget would be higher than FCSO budget, with higher officer coverage being 18 v. 11 on the same budget.
The board structure would be 2:2
One department would liquidate gear, etc. with revenue being placed into a pool.
The last page of the proposal lists references from source data.
-Shiloh LaFreniere commented that the links of the resources are posted on both town websites for review.
David- Thank you to all parties for the research conducted
Maria-Recommendation to the board is to consider all 4 options, with focused deliberations, targeted follow-up, staffing and legal considerations
David – any questions from the select board?
Tiffany-is this a contractual obligation?
Le Ann-Pennsylvania Governor assigned grant money and started with a 5-10 year contract
Nancy-Which link references the Pennsylvania department structure?
Le Ann-Regional Police Guide (PDF), listed under references and on town(s) website
Phil-is this gap in budget similar? It seems like a larger gap?
Shiloh-the budget data is from the timeframe when the mill was still operating
-Chief Kyes stated that this option would allow for more officers for more events. Jay did send an additional officer for last year's Wilton Blueberry Festival to provide additional coverage.

Item #3 – Public to speak on non-agenda items

Nate Hiltz spoke on the increase in crime rate, referencing the Town's Annual report ending in 1970. Travel time has changed and decreased, with an example given of travel time from Portland to Maine taking 2 hrs. by automobile
David-any others to speak? None

Item #4-Fire Dept. Update

-Sonny provided an update for the Fire Department and stated that the cables and ABS system on Ladder 7 was repaired with a cost of \$17,000.
The Fire Department has received 58 calls since last Selectboard Meeting; approximately 10-12 calls were medical. We currently have 3 EMTs (Emergency Medical Technician) on the department with medical coverage being dependent on who is on duty and those responding from out of town. Patient care cannot be provided unless we have an EMT on duty to respond. We are only able to respond and preserve the scene until NorthStar arrives, if no EMT on duty.
-We have a new firefighter, Kris Melancon, starting with the department
-One wall in the station bay area is scheduled to be painted
- Franklin Co. Dispatch will be completing their UPS system (battery backup) replacement and when this happens there will need to be 5-6 firefighters on duty for calls. The date will be announced soon.

-David asked how long this process would take and Sonny stated it would be anywhere from 1-4 hrs., at night.

-A decision will need to be made on the police and fire communication tower, by July. The tower on Temple Street was purchased from Beeline by American Tower.

There will be a test done on the York Hill tower in New Sharon, as a possibility. Contact has been made with Peter Hussey of Hussey Communications to see if we can gain access to their towers

-Chief Kyes added that coverage was tested in Carthage and Weld, with little success

Item #5- Review of Approval of Extrication Equipment RFP (See attached resource)

-Two bids were received with the Fire Chief's recommendation Northeast Emergency Apparatus.

Motion by Keith/Second by Nancy – To go with Northeast bid

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #6-Fire Department Committee

-David speaks on the topic of establishing a Fire Department committee

-Maria would like a formal Motion of the Committee with a recommendation of 5 committee members, (1 board member and 4 committee members)

Motion by Keith/Second by Nancy – To establish a Fire Department committee

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #7-Planning Board Alternate & Comprehensive Plan Committee Appointment – Jay Cummings

-Nancy asks if there would be any issues with the member serving on both committees.

Maria clarified that it would not be a conflict of interest

-Motion by Keith/Second by Tiffany – Appointment of Jay Cummings as Planning Board Alternate and Comprehensive Plan Committee Member

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous

Item #8-ATV Discussion

-David addressed that ATVs are considered a vehicle covered under Title 30A and all vehicles are purview of the Selectboard

-Nancy inquired, clarifying that the Selectboard will need to create an ATV Ordinance

-David confirmed that it will be an Ordinance of the Selectboard

Item#9-Upcoming Selectboard Meeting

-The next Selectboard meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00pm

Item #10 – Town Manager's Report

a) Department head budget meetings are underway through the first half of February.

We will add more if needed.

b) The RFP for pump house generator near the Public Safety Building has been posted.

Bid submissions are due back on Wednesday, February 11th and the Selectboard are

slated to review and award the bid at our February 17th meeting. In addition, the

Water/Sewer budgets are expected to be reviewed at the February 17th meeting.

- c) We received an update from Congressman Golden's office about our CPF Funding. The Project has passed both the House and the Senate with a strong majority. Once the President signs it in to law, they'll guide us through the next steps. Just a reminder, this was for the 'stretch goals' associated with the waterline project.
- d) I also wanted to take a moment to thank our staff for really coming together during our recent staffing shortage. Everyone stepped up, helping each other and kept things moving at the counter the best we could. I was humbled pretty fast, seeing how much they juggle on a daily basis. Also, to our residents as well-residents were patient and understanding while we were working through the processes and we truly appreciate it. We're glad to have a full office again!
- e) I also wanted to acknowledge our Public Works crew for the incredible work during the big snowstorm and our first responders who show up, especially when the weather is bad. All our employees put in some very long hours to keep the roads and us safe and we appreciate their hard work.
- f) As the Board is aware, SHAPE was here in the beginning of December. All departments completed their required fixes without needing extensions. Improvements included marking breaker boxes, removing extra extension cords, adding barriers around the propane tank, and storing laddering horizontally.
- g) The Town office will be closed on February 16th in observance of President's Day

Item #11-Adjourn

Motion by Phil/Second by Nancy – To Adjourn

Vote: 5:0 Unanimous 7:30pm