

**TOWN OF WILTON**  
**March 3, 2026**  
**SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

---

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

**(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT [www.mtbluetv.org](http://www.mtbluetv.org))**

---

**Item #1 - Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item#2 – Minutes from the February 17, 2026 Selectboard Meeting**

Motion by Keith, Second by Phil – To Approve Minutes

Maria – the minutes were sent out, however, it has been brought to our attention that a few items needed to be corrected.

Amendments to be made are for February 17, 2026 Selectboard Minutes:

Item#2 – Motion to Approved January 20<sup>th</sup> Minutes

The Motion was made by Keith, second by Phil. The date was written as January 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes and should have been written as January 20<sup>th</sup> minutes

Item #3 – Motion by Phil, Second by Keith to approve the February 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes

Item #9 – Motion by Keith, Second by Phil to approve Honeycomb Cannabis License Renewal

Item #10 – Motion by Keith, Second by Phil to approve Cannatopia Cannabis License Renewal

Item #12 - UTILITIES specification was added to clarify that the \$14,000 amount was only set for the Utilities budget, not the total budget of the entire department

Motion to Approve by Phil, Second by Keith – to approve as amended

Vote: 3-0

David – Abstentions?

Abstentions – 1 (Nancy)

Vote on Minutes as Amended

Vote: 3-0

Abstentions: 1 (Nancy)

**Item # 3 – Minutes from the January 20, 2026 Selectboard Meeting - Amended**

Amended minutes – missing Motion from the original approved minutes from the agenda for Item #12 - Amended Draft Minutes. The Motion should have been Motion by Keith, Second by Tiffany. Motion to resign two (2) Quit Claim Deeds due to clerical error.

Motion by Phil, Second by David - to accept minutes as amended

Vote: 4-0

Unanimous

#### **Item # 4 – Public to speak on non-agenda**

Nathan Hiltz Speaks

Nomination Papers notice for Selectboard Seat #1 and Seat #2 have been posted on the Town of Wilton electronic sign. Reference Title 30a, Section 2528 / “The Clerk shall make Nomination papers available during the 40 days before the filing deadline.” Last year’s dates were March 3<sup>rd</sup>-April 11<sup>th</sup>. If the same 40 days period was applied to the 2026 calendar, the dates would be March 2<sup>nd</sup>-April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

2026 did not feature an announcement of the first day that papers would become available. This is a deviation from the Manager’s Report from February 18, 2025 listing that nomination papers would be available March 3, 2025. The Manager’s Report from February 20, 2024 announced the upcoming date of March 4, 2024. The full nomination period will not be available for historical comparison. The information that hits the digital record is what AI is being trained on. Complete reporting would mean less mistakes through AI in the future.

#### **Item #5 – Police Collaboration Committee Findings**

David - opens with referencing the email from Jay and the single-town contracting offer. He felt it was always about bringing it forward to the citizens of Wilton – any decision.

He feels as though it was a premature vote of Jay’s Selectboard without having additional information.

Keith - agrees and thought both towns were taking it back to residents. Phil and Nancy agree.

Nancy - has questions about the collaboration report and addresses consolidation of Police Department and response time.

Nancy - thank you to the committee for their time spent on the report. It does feel there’s alot that was not answered that needs to be addressed.

How does the merger affect response time? Will it be faster, will it be the same?

Chief Kyes - the response time should be the same with the Quasi option if an officer is dedicated to the Wilton patrol zone and an officer to the Jay patrol Zone, along with a Supervisor providing coverage at all times, roving both routes.

Nancy – where are Wilton’s most critical locations for coverage and does this plan cover that?

Chief Kyes - says they have not done a study, but many calls happen near the Police Department. It can be sporadic. Many times it’s within a mile of the Police Department and Route 2. This is where a supervisor would be roving the major highways

Nancy – do we need a Detective?

Chief Kyes – yes, absolutely. We have many cases that are serious and take extra dedication to complete an investigation and it is very hard while working patrol to dedicate time for follow-ups. Example, today, a patrol officer was responding to calls and continuing to investigate a \$7,000 theft case, which he was not able to complete because he was so busy with other calls.

Nancy - the solve rate would be higher than 55% with a Detective?

Chief Kyes – yes, a 55% clearance rate. He states that he hopes it would be higher, as there are some cases that cannot be solved. He believes next year’s stats will be lower. Gould’s Gas Station and the Big Apple gas station have had 10 drive-offs between October and November and the necessary equipment is not available to solve these cases. They are currently pulling Lt. Lynch from nights at times to assist with these higher profile cases. He currently just closed out four cases, one from 2023 and 2024.

Nancy – do we get any additional money for solving higher crimes? (\$7000 theft case referenced)

Chief Kyes – no, we do not.

Nancy – There was no 5 year projection for costs? Feels that a 5 year projection is important to have. This is a request Nancy has for the following years.

Also, what does our community want from our Police Force? What makes them feel comfortable? Both plans seem heavy with Patrol Officers and Police Management. Why is that?

Chief Kyes – we currently have multiple officers going to the Police Academy as well as a high turnover rate. The 5 year mark is typically where an officer is considered to have a firm hold of their duties. They need to have a supervisor, especially at night to see what's going on. Jay is in a similar situation. Things are changing rapidly. Investigations are not as simply as they were, with additional steps added in.

I just had a conversation with Maria; there was a Policy review in November, with an additional 10 more policies already updated and enacted now. The Board of Trustees are pushing new policies constantly. We've never seen this much involved with policies and Board of Directors.

Nancy – feels there was not enough information provided in the report

Chief Kyes – I understand that, but we didn't want to get caught up in the weeds of the details

David – we are not looking at saving money, we are looking at improving policing. That's the goal. How do we improve policing?

Chief Kyes – we keep losing officers to larger agencies, with money being spent (\$30,000) on training and covering the officer's shifts, including overtime. This is something that would be remedied with the Quasi option. This option is also more appealing to new applicants.

Nancy – doesn't believe the Quasi is the only option that provides that remedy

David – if Jay's offer to contract Policing, Wilton would have no say. If Quasi, Wilton would still have say and Jay would still have say on how the policing works, with 2 Selectboard members from Jay, 2 Selectboard members from Wilton.

Nancy – If you build the contract, in that contract you can put some of the holds on. The Quasi option makes me nervous; it's never been done here. References Pennsylvania police set-up not being the best operation. Would like to see more information on this.

David – The results from the committee for me are a stepping-off point. Suggesting now that it be taken to the town's people and the pros and cons reviewed. What do we want to do?

Nancy – believes more research and answers should be done before taking it to the town's people

Keith – feels we would need specifics, as the committee did what it was supposed to do. The committee was designed to review the options available for a police collaboration. What options are available?

Nancy – believes that having additional information would be helpful. For some people, this may be a condition of making a decision.

Keith – If we go to the town and they say they want to go with one option or another, at that point is where we would go down that road. We don't want to set the direction for them.

Nancy – are you saying you would like to set all four options in front of them and they vote? Is that what your understanding is?

Keith – no, we are looking for suggestions on which direction to go for more information. If people are voting, they are expecting something to happen, period. We are just looking for a direction to go to get more information, not which direction to go to make it happen. Once an option is selected, then the research is done to see what 1,2,5 years would look like.

Nancy – what if we find that those options wouldn't work?

Keith – if the town says we aren't going to do anything, then we are going to stay the way we are

David – both towns would have to agree on which direction to go

Nancy – it looks like one town already decided

David - well, no. They left the Quasi option in there

Chief Kyes – we could expand with an MOU, doing more in collaboration with both departments. Day-to-day operations and assistance with each other. This would not be an official contract.

David – even if the town votes on the Quasi option, it won't happen overnight. Additional questions would remain, including legalities.

Chief Kyes – we would still be projecting on how things would work at that point, this being the reason for suggesting an MOU.

David – anything else?

Nancy – how many sworn officers would there be with both Departments together?

Chief Kyes – as listed in the presentation, with contract to one town we set 16 or 17 with a Department merge, with the Quasi option being at 18 positions (1 admin). Including an added Corporal.

Nancy – I did some research and found that the Farmington Police Department (with about the same population, smaller geographics ) has 13 sworn officers

Chief Kyes – We would be way busier. Jay and Wilton are busier than the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in the Summertime. Wilton can get up to 18 calls per day and we would be adding Jay's calls

Nancy – Why?

Chief Kyes/David – both state that it's because of the neighborhood

Chief Kyes – we have more calls; more crime and calls for service

Nancy – we have more calls than all the rest of Franklin County?

Chief Kyes – yes. We are two, very busy, small communities.

Nancy – I was really taken aback that we would have 30% more sworn officers than Farmington, understanding the geographical space factor

Chief Kyes – Farmington typically has one officer on, with a goal of two, but when they are short-staffed they may only have one

Nancy – I would like to see how many calls are received in a week

Chief Kyes – We can do that. It was in the slideshow as well. Annually, it's just over 10,000 calls for both departments. I do have the stats.

Nancy – for both departments?

Chief Kyes – yes, for both of us. When I did the presentation for the Cop's Grant, Wilton had more aggravated assaults and just as many drug crimes as the Sheriff's Office. These stats are from 2022. The Sheriff's Department did have more CAC interviews.

Nancy – what are CAC interviews?

Chief Kyes- Child Advocate Interview

Nancy – a trend over the couple years would be helpful

Chief Kyes – This was over a 3 year span. Franklin County Sheriff's Office had 12 more domestics than Wilton Police Department. We had 6.

Keith – I would like to move forward with some sort of questionnaire and ask the committee to set up a time for residents to meet and ask questions

David – do you have a date?

Keith – my calendar is pretty open. We would have to ask the committee if they could make a date

Maria – I can help coordinate that if that's what you would like

Nancy – do you think a decision would be made at that date?

Keith – no, we are nowhere near a decision

David – as a committee, when we were talking about decisions, it was going to be the towns voting. June 9<sup>th</sup> is the primary. Jay's town meeting is this month

Nancy – we have an election in November as well

David – Can we look at the second week of April?

Nancy – Second full week, I may be in DC. What about the first full week of April?

Maria – We can look into reserving Academy Hill

David – we can look at that Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

Chief Kyes – I will be in Florida that day

Nancy – What about April 1<sup>st</sup>?

Maria – April 1<sup>st</sup>, if available?

Nancy – Time?

Maria – I would suggest 6pm. We will check with Academy and Mt. Blue

David – advertise heavily, once finalized

Maria – as part of the initial charge given to the committee, I believe that this may clarify some of those questions that citizens may have

Nancy – do we need to send back a note to Jay with an update on this process

Maria – I would be happy to do that

David – we had discussed that anyway at the committee

Nancy – has the committee met since the Jay offer was received?

David – no, the committee has not, but that was through the committee process

Phil – except for presentations, the Police Collaboration Committee's work done?

Keith – yes, as this time

David – unless it gets re-charged with something, a resurrection

Maria – answering questions of the findings is part of that

Keith – who designs the questionnaire? Is it available for a month after?

Maria – I want to make sure once the Questionnaire goes out, we are ready.

Keith – anytime it's put out, I think it would be ok. Some will give their answers from the previous presentation and it could be available for a month after?

Maria – I just want to make sure that when we put the questionnaire out that we are ready.

David – You could do a Straw Poll at the meeting. There would actually be a vote but is non-binding. This would give you an idea of where people are at

Nancy – how much notice do we have to give if it's on the ballot? Is it 15 days?

Maria – it's written, but I don't know it of top of my head

Nancy – letting people know that a tentatively scheduled vote for the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

David – having an April 1<sup>st</sup> gathering would give enough information and then we have a Straw Poll. From there we could work on the dates as far as moving forward

Keith – if we did a vote, we could do all four questions and they pick the one they wanted from the vote and we wouldn't need a Straw Poll that way

David – it may be that we find out there are only a couple that people are truly interested in. I think the best way would be a Straw Poll at the public meeting

Nancy – after they've heard all the information?

David - yes

Nancy – that may help us get a direction, but won't give us our answer?

David – no

Nancy – once we have that information, what do we do with it?

David – we have to see where Jay is at also

Phil – they're done, aren't they?

David – if both towns voted to go contracted or Quasi, then you would have to put people in their positions and start formulating how it's laid out; town managers

Nancy – if they voted one way in June, it doesn't mean they would be starting July 1st?

David – no, it's just the beginning of the process

Maria – it would then be recommended that you charge a committee or form a different committee that's going to help the Town Manager, rather. The Town Manager would assist the committee as needed.

Nancy – in that process, if we decide it's not going to work out, is there a way to pull out of the agreement if we decide it's not going to work? Would that take another vote from the community?

David – there is no commitment until we are signed. We would have our legal counsel draft the pertinent questions to be asked

Maria – if it's not in the best interest of the town, the board would have the right to pull back

Nancy – Ok, I just want to make sure that we have something in place. Thank you for the clarification

David – anything else, Ethan?

Ethan – no

David – thank you very much. April 1<sup>st</sup> date set

#### **Item #6 - Upcoming Meetings:**

Selectboard/Finance Committee Budget Meeting – March 9, 2026 – 6:00pm

Selectboard Meeting – March 17, 2026 – 6:00pm

Nancy- those are all here?

Maria – that's correct

#### **Item #7 - Other**

None

#### **Item #8 - Manager's Report (See attached resources)**

Any questions for the town manager?

#### **Item #9 – Executive Session**

Motion by Keith, second by Phil – to move into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) – Labor Contracts

Vote: 4-0 Unanimous

(In-session at 6:45pm)

(Out of session at 8:56pm)

**Item #10 – Adjourn**

Motion by Keith, second by Nancy – to Adjourn Selectboard Meeting

Vote: 4-0 Unanimous