

WILTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

with

Greenfield and Lyndeborough's Select Boards

Via Zoom Only

DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2021
 TIME: 5:30 PM
 PRESENT: Chairman Matthew S. Fish, Selectwoman Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Selectman Kermit R. Williams, Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Ambulance Director Sherry Miller, Deputy Town Administrator Janice Pack, Greenfield Chair Bob Marshall, Selectwoman Karen Day, Selectman Michael Borden, Town Administrator Aaron Patt, Lyndeborough Chairman Mark Chamberlin, Selectman (and Greenfield Fire Chief) Rick McQuade, Fire Chief Brian Smith, and Town Administrator Russ Boland.

Also Present: Wilton resident Tom Schultz, Wilton Treasurer DJ Garcia, Greenfield EMD Dave Martin

Chairman Fish called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and did a roll call. Mr. Branscombe read the Governor's Emergency Order which allows the meeting to occur via Zoom. Chairman Fish said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Ambulance Inter Municipal Agreement as there were some concerns raised by the Town of Greenfield. Chairman Fish said he thinks this partnership is invaluable when we're all committed to it; the goal is to provide the highest possible service at the lowest cost possible.

Selectwoman Boissonnault said we're here to discuss the continuation of the partnership between Lyndeborough, Wilton and Greenfield. We have implemented Addendum C back to its original intent.

Chairman Marshall thanked us for calling the meeting and said he appreciated the chance to have a face to face conversation. It has been the goal of Greenfield to join a regional organization like this. They did have some concerns as a result of things that have gone on this year. First, Greenfield's position is to be a full member of this organization. Concerns were raised over the restructuring of the language in Addendum C. When Wilton requested they sign off on that, they checked with Legal Counsel to be sure the language was appropriate. Greenfield's Legal Counsel advised against signing it. Greenfield felt compelled to point out that the potential loss of coverage was not something they could support. The second concern is the dramatic increase in cost; it's almost a 68% increase. If it was due to an increase in staffing, they could support that, but it's not. The cost is higher even though the call volume has declined.

Selectwoman Boissonnault said to address his concerns with the budget, even Wilton misunderstood that the Revenue amount that was given to the Board and the Budget Committee was the actual amount billed, not the actual amount being collected. We made that adjustment which did drive up the costs for all towns involved. Losing Temple also drove everyone's prices up. Added to that, the capital expenditures are being included in the budget because with a revolving fund, you cannot also have a capital expense account. We're still trying to get this all straightened out. Our Recycling Center has been very successful as a revolving fund, with 5 towns participating; we anticipate the Ambulance will be, too. We have hired a new billing company who will be more aggressive and on top of collections. We're anticipating that

our revenue will reflect that in next year's budget. If you look at the overall budget, we are actually down 1.66% overall.

Sherry said regarding staffing, we do have staff 24/7 staying at the station. Before they may have been responding from home. Even with that change, the budget has still decreased.

Chairman Fish said the bigger picture is that we started out as a volunteer service and we've morphed into a regional service. Our goal is to continue to develop this partnership. We have absorbed a lot of other costs including a major legal expense in 2020.

Director Miller pointed out that she came on in March of 2020. For the past 2 years, Lyndeborough and Greenfield paid the same amount. Over the 3-year term, Greenfield will have paid an average of \$70,000 each year over that term.

Chairman Marshall said he appreciates the Ambulance Advisory Committee and the ability of the Town Administrators to be able to work together. He appreciates Wilton's attempt to address their concerns.

Chairman Chamberlain said they are satisfied with how everything has worked out; we're heading in the right direction.

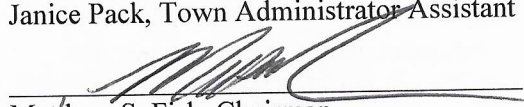
Selectwoman Boissonnault said the AAC is still intact and Mr. Branscombe will be putting together some dates moving forward. Its important to have everyone's voices heard.

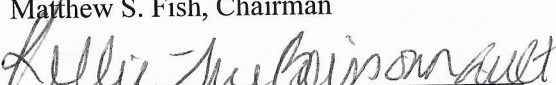
Chairman Fish asked if we had explained to the partner towns the analysis that Katherine Heck has undertaken; Selectwoman Boissonnault said there hasn't been an AAC meeting during the past few months. Chairman Fish said Administrator Boland had said "We're stronger together" and he echoes that sentiment.

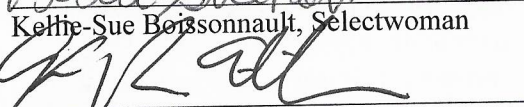
Hearing no further questions or concerns, Selectwoman Boissonnault moved to adjourn at 5:51 PM, Selectman Williams seconded. All were in favor; motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice Pack, Town Administrator Assistant


Matthew S. Fish, Chairman


Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Selectwoman


Kermit R. Williams, Selectman