# OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice First Selectwoman

David K. Clune Second Selectman

Michael P. Kaelin Selectman

Lori A. Bufano Selectwoman

Deborah McFadden Selectwoman

TOWN HALL 238 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MONDAY JANUARY 22, 2018 TOWN HALL – MEETING ROOM B

PRESENT:

First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, David Clune, Lori Bufano and Deborah

McFadden

ABSENT:

Michael Kaelin (Excused)

**GUESTS:** 

Elaine Tai-Lauria, Kim Healy and Members of the Wilton Library Association,

John Miscioscia and Ron Hitter of WVAC, Anne Kelly-Lenz

**OTHERS:** 

Members of the Press and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:33PM

### **B.** Executive Session

Interviews

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for interviews and invite Deborah List for an interview with the Board regarding her interest in serving on the Social Services Commission and also invite Christian Bilella for an interview with the Board regarding his interest in serving on the Economic Development Commission. Motion moved by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried.

Out of Executive Session at 8:01PM.

## C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Clune, seconded by Ms. McFadden and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

### **Minutes**

Board of Selectmen Meeting – January 8, 2018

### Gifts

- CT Pro FF Emergency Relief Fund Trustee for CT CERT Gift Fund \$500.00
- Encore Club Wilton Senior Center \$200.00
- Therese Goodwin Quarry Head State Park \$3,000

Ms. Vanderslice thanked all for their generous donations.

## D. Public Comment None

### E. Discussion and/or Action

1. FY 2019 Budget Overview

Ms. Vanderslice provided an overview of the FY2019 Budget. She noted the Board will be receiving their budget packets next week for meetings with departments to start on February 3, 2018.

She noted the Board of Finance has provided guidance of 1.5%. She stated that because of contract negotiations and position eliminations, the budget should be in that range for salary and wages. Unfortunately the Town's actual health claims history has been running high. The first pass for the forecasted rate increase is 14%, which would consume all of the Board of Selectmen's allotted \$500,000. As a comparison, the Board of Education forecasted rate increase is 5%.

Ms. Vanderslice noted there was much work to be done.

- Wilton Library Association-Budget Request
  Kim Healy and Elaine Tai-Lauria of the Wilton Library Association gave an
  overview of their budget request, which represents just over a 1.8% increase, as
  well as an update on the WLA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (see attached). The possibility of a
  reduction to the request was discussed.
- 3. Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps-Budget Request John Miscioscia, President WVAC gave an overview of their budget requests (see attached). A discussion was held about their possible plans to move to a new facility off of the Town Campus site. Ms. Vanderslice noted the Town welcomed them staying. Should they remain, their renovation could be coordinated with any Town Campus renovations to achieve cost efficiencies.
- 4. FY 2019 Town Counsel Budget Ms. Vanderslice provided an overview of the FY 2019 Town Counsel Budget which will remain flat for FY 2019 for now, though there is a possibility of reduction depending on legal activity. She noted more legal costs this year are due to land use activity which is covered in the land use budgets.
- Non Union Part-Time Employees-Medical Benefits Eligibility
   Ms. Vanderslice noted as Selectman Kaelin is not present she would like to table
   this item. The topic is being raised in the context of a larger project and she
   would like the full board in attendance when discussed.
- 6. Board of Assessment Appeals-Possible Appointees Ms. Vanderslice noted that the Board has the ability to appoint additional members to the Board of Assessment Appeals if it so chooses and suggested the Board do so this year to allow the appointees to become familiar in advance of next year's revaluation hearings. Members agreed. Town Committees to be informed.

### 7. Reappointments-

- Conservation Commission (Hobson & Algon)
   Motion made by Mr. Clune to reappoint Jade Hobson and Jackie Algon to the Conservation Commission for terms beginning 12/1/2017, seconded by Ms. McFadden and unanimously carried
- Retirement Investment Committee (Rutishauser-BoF Rep),
   Motion made by Ms. Bufano to reappoint Jeffrey Rutishauser as the Board of Finance Rep to the Retirement Investment Committee, seconded by Ms. McFadden and unanimously carried.
- OPEB (Lori Bufano-BoS Rep)
   Motion made by Ms. McFadden to reappoint Lori Bufano as the Board of Selectmen representative on OPEB, seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried.
- Wilton Energy Commission (Glenn Hemmerle-BoE Rep)
   Motion made by Ms. McFadden to reappoint Glenn Hemmerle as the Board of Education Representative on the Wilton Energy Commission, seconded by Ms. Bufano and unanimously carried.
- 8. Appointments Economic Development Commission Ms. Vanderslice noted that there are three candidates for positions on the Economic Development Commission - Melissa Rotini known to the board for her work on P&Z, Christian Bilella, who was interviewed this evening and Kim Purcell, who was interviewed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. She stated that Phil Lauria has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons, so there are now openings to appoint all three. A motion was made by Ms. McFadden to appoint Melissa Rotini, Christian Bilella and Kim Purcell to the EDC to fill the vacant terms ending on 6/30/18. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bufano and unanimously carried.

## F. Reports

- 1. First Selectman's Report
  - Ms. Vanderslice noted that she was elected as the Treasurer for WestCOG and at the WestCOG meeting the 2018 priorities were set as follows:
    - Allow municipalities to cover the cost of services
    - Empower municipalities to share services
    - Support Transportation
    - Enable regions to apply for federal grants
  - Ms. Vanderslice noted that the Board of Finance will be the point men for efforts to address the tax deductibility of state and property taxes.
     Stewart Koenisberg will be taking the lead and Ms. Vanderslice will be providing information.
  - Ms. Vanderslice announced the current vacancies on the various boards:
    - Historic District & Historic Properties Commission
    - Board of Assessment Appeals Temporary Appointees
  - Ms. Vanderslice noted that the Board of Selectmen's POCD information has been sent to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

 Winter Carnival Reminder: Sunday, January 28, 2018 from noon to 4:00PM. The First Selectwoman's office is sponsoring the Scavenger Hunt which has been organized by a Middlebrook 8<sup>th</sup> grader who will be operating it on Sunday with some of his friends.

## 2. Selectmen's Reports

### Deborah McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted she attended the WestCOG Sustainable CT Presentation that took place in Wilton and gave an overview. She also noted that she attended the Woman's March that took place in New York on Sunday and noted that quite a few people from Wilton participated.

### **David Clune**

Mr. Clune noted that the final monies have come in for the Stadium ads and he will provide accounting at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

### Lori Bufano

Ms. Bufano provided an update on holiday tree lighting (see attached).

## G. Public Comment

None

## H. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Ms. McFadden to adjourn meeting at 9:50 PM. Motion was seconded by Mr. Clune and unanimously carried.

Next Meeting – Feb 3, 2018 Budget Meeting

Jacqueline Rochester Recording Secretary (Taken from Video)

Montnly Financial Summary						_
DECEMBER 2017			2017-2018		FY Forecast	ast
		2017-2018	FY Forecast	2017-2018	Var to Budget	dget
	Category	YTD	<b>Curr Month</b>	Budget	\$	%
REVENUE						
Town Grant	Operating	1,376,227	2,752,258	2,752,258	•	0.0%
Other Revenue	Operating	113,673	263,563	277,632	(14,069)	-5.1%
TOTAL OPERATING REVS		1,489,899	3,015,821	3,029,890	(14,069)	
Fundraising	Restricted	236,100	290,000	290,000	•	%0.0
TOTAL REVENUE		1,725,999	3,605,821	3,619,890	(14,069)	-0.4%
EXPENSES						
Salaries & Benefits	Operating	1,257,285	2,530,343	2,524,390	(5,953)	0.5%
<b>Building Utilities &amp; Maint</b>	Operating	100,040	219,500	219,500	•	0.0%
Technology & Supplies	Operating	87,310	168,000	174,000	6,000	-3.4%
Insurance, Audit & Other	Operating	65,457	109,000	112,000	3,000	-2.7%
TOTAL OPERATING EXP		1,510,092	3,026,843	3,029,890	3,047	-0.1%
Library Content & Programs	Restricted	143,739	392,000	392,000	,	0.0%
Development & Fundraising	Restricted	84,333	133,000	133,000	1	%0.0
Other	Restricted	•	65,000	65,000	•	0.0%
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXP		228,071	290,000	290,000	1	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES		1,738,164	3,616,843	3,619,890	3,047	-0.1%
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	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	Revs	FYYIB vs 19	FY18 vs 19	e description de series de constante de series de constante de series de constante de constante de series de constante de series de constante de series de constante de series de constante
OPERATING REVENUE			The same of the same of	And the first of the state of t		To a consumer of the following the first of	Service of the servic			
Outside Income	40 003	44 200	44.069	744 977			7016 0	6 000	.22 220/	
1. State Grant	789,01	707'11	708,41	1174				חממים-		A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
2. Copler & Printing	6,106	5,841	5,323	5,467						
3. Facility/Nideo Rentals	41,032	35,281	33,184	33,873				2,000		
4. Programs	35,728	29,573	17,542	6,754			dealer to the control of	-		
5. Book Sales	87,822	96,237	90,821	94,002			2.71%		1 m	A management of the state of th
6. Late Fees (Book and Video)	52,769	49,583	44,099	40,159	48,000	40,000	1.09%		-16.67%	
7. Investment Sources	7.770	10.686	10.830	11,504		12,000	0.33%	1,000		
8. Miscellansous	13.513	16.829	17.512			de se series de la constante			-4.76%	4-4-4-4
	12,600	12,600	12,600	13,235		City of the last o	0			
Total Ordanda REVENIIE	274.237	273,912	246.873	235.539	2			-16,766		
Coun income	mile and the second of the sec	A STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSON NAM	masses of an few a develop to copy at the development of	and only the state of the state			-		At the party and	
10. Town Operating Grant	2.545.201	2,597,856	2,692,972	2,738,453	2,752,258	2,803,004	76.65%	50,745	1.84%	
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	2.819.438	2,871,768	2,939,845	2,973,992	<u></u>		83.78%	33,979		
OPERATING EXPENSES			the state of the s	Applied to the state of the sta	!					
Salaries, Etc.			And the control of th	A PART OF THE PART		And the second of the second o				
times the parameters with the second to the second to the second to the property of the second to th	1.682,865	1.728.526	1.802.196	1,777,608	1.797,710	1,832,435	50.11%	34,724	1.93%	
12. Medical Benefits	335.212	377.397	388,635		<u> </u>	Ĺ	12.24%	18,453	4.30%	
13. Pension Benefits	167.799	135.951	151.028	104.543		}			9	
14. FtCA. CT Unemploy ADP	147.111	148.893	153.140	155.054		de de la companya de			-1.48%	
TOTAL	2.332,987	2,390,767	2,494,999	2,431,542	ď	2,	70.20%	42,759	1.69%	
winistation		in reference or a climb was about the fact that the children's	As & desirance and the superior and the	The second of th						A THE PARTY OF THE
15. Insurance	27,243	33,993	35,386	35,515	38,000	36,000		-2,000		Auguspheider — Bergebergeren von der der Berker III. den Besche so der Beschen der
16. Audit	17,000	17,500	17,800	18,250			100			Lescopers and the service of the depth of the service of the servi
17. Office Supplies	22,670	26,245	21,508					'7		
18. Postage	4,876	5,731	968'9	6,642			the mean market of the	Burden of the College of the College		
19. Professional Development	12,611	7,250	8,070	8,633	1	- Pr W 198-0-1- 1- m 545-		-500		
20. Association Memberships	3,683	4,031	4,415			1		A red defined y medicin to \$2.		HE I THE THE PERSON OF THE PER
21. Miscelianeous	12,220	11,134	11,122	10,437						e vanorement un est principa de desta desta desta de desse una un esta esta esta que que esta un insperior desse de desse de la companya de desse de desent de desse de desse de desse de desse de desse de desse de desent de desent de desse de dess
FOLD	100,303	105,884	105,197	106,639	110,000	104,750	2.86%	-5,250	4.77%	train and the state of some some to more the program of the state of t
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22, Utilities	182,254	145,177	154,128	176,998		1		refra u abbu sassu-		
23. PPE Maintenance/Repair	68,640	50,196	34,724	55,456			1.09%	-5,000	٦	2 m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m
24. Maintenance Supplies	18,566	16,058	14,160	19,307	16,000	16,000	1	200 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		ame to provide the second of t
25. Goslee Interest	455	0	0	0			-			
26. Gostee Capital	18,938	0	0	0				0		
Total	288,853	211,431	203,012	251,761	219,500	226,000	6.18%	6,500	2.96%	and residence and a state of the second decisions of the second s
Public Service							in the second section of the		1	m m n 1966 de ye-nyeleydd affe de ab alain fan mewn am ei swenn all sy'n fe'n fe'n ei splainde fylan ei a sannam ei a sanna
27. Technology	49,150	20,000		50,514						e manay mayor magabiliye hiji ha sa hiji mama na na mama mama na mama ka mayor ka magabiya na sa ka mama na na
25. Systems Maintenance	52,013	54,614			7			-		the dead of the first and the same of the
29. Telecommunications Maint.	7,965	6,736				d free or a level of	j	-		Admin of the second sec
30. Collection Processing Supplies	16,737	16,770	the section of the se	16				-2,00	7	The second secon
31. Coplers	22,697	23,353		25			-			
32. Programs	38,018	32,209		9,744	30,000	20,000		-10,000	c,	
33. Newspaper Subscriptions	3,117	3,735		2,970	i					
Total	189,697	187,417	177,482	158,451	174,000	163,970	4.48%	-10,030	-5.76%	
Library Development	de contraction de la contracti	volvemment MAMPA 6-45 0-16-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-	Average Ballery B. G. de de de de Balley Balley Balley	Annual Control of the					-	
34. Book Sale	2,546	2,934		2,289						
Total	2,546	2,934		2,289					Manage and Street	THE PARTY PROPERTY COMMENTS AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY CONTRACTOR ADDRESS OF THE PARTY CONTRACTOR AND AD
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,914,386	2,898,433	2,982,652	2,950,682	3,029,890	3,063,870	83.78%	33,979	9 1.12%	The second control of
Sumbre Dodelts	O VO									

Draft 11.07.17	17.17	WILTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION								and a second sec
And the state of t		RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS BUDGET FO	DGET FOR FI	R FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019	018-2019		mandre est e men e com però estresse que desse à delle de desse de de discons	the section of a seriman series of the section of t		A STATE OF THE STA
		The second secon	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
an diden and de Wandrager's standard desiring			ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL.	BUDGET	BUDGET	FY'18 vs 19	FY18 vs 19
RESTRIC	CTED AND DE	RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS REVENUE		manners y anners a communicación que debido que fil adelete, i de el composición de como en composición de como en como como como como como como como com	And and which were served and a served with the served with th	and seem a seem a seem seem to the seem of				And by the company of the contract of the cont
	1. Annual Appeal	70	210,234	223,725	205,584	224,555	230,000	233,000	3,000	1.30%
2	2. Other Donations	400	209,673	120,483	111,364	99,644	180,000	170,000		-5.56%
Š	3. Fund Raising Events	Events	139,520	132,421	180,462	167,270	180,000	190,000	10,000	5.56%
TOTAL	RESTRICTED A	TOTAL RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS REVENUE	559,427	476,629	497,410	491,469	590,000	593,000	3,000	0.51%
RESTRI	CTED AND DE	RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS EXPENDITURES	e problem in the company and the second in t	e de la companio anno de la companio del la companio de la companio del la companio de la compan	ensk mene of hopping is a plant state of the second of the plant is the second of the	One of the second control of the second				
4	Collection Ma	4. Collection Materials (from line 1)	194,159	274,395	205,929	189,514	210,000	210,000	O service and the service from the service services as the	%00.0
, id	Collection M.	5. Collection Materials from funds (from line 2)	44,907	35,658	35,692		35,000		10,000	28.57%
6.	Programs/Te	6. Programs/Technology/Art, etc. from funds (from line 2)	132,551	166,349	129,792	86,924	147,000	137,000	-10,000	%08 <sup>-</sup> 9-
as on recovering way is admitted admitted as	Fund Raising	7. Fund Raising Events (from line 3)	41,650	48,773	48,815	41,012	49,000	49,000	a bandananan mere mananan mere mananan merendan ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana	%00.0
<b>6</b>	8. Annual Appeal Expense	al Expense	13,433	18,091	20,196			22,000		%00.0
6	9. Development Expense	t Expense	0	0		<u></u>	62,000	65,000	3,000	4.84%
10.	Technology-	10. Technology-special projects	0	48,572	101,128	41,864	50,000	20,000	0	%00.0
-	11. Maintenance Reserve	Reserve	0	0	0		15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
and service for every many device for 1 and		en de la company de la comp		1 vo				A. A. A. A. A.	.,,,,,,,,,,,	
TOTAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS EXPENDITURES	426,700	591,838	541,552	479,145	590,000	593,000	3,000	0.51%
Surplus	Surplus ( Deficit )		132,727	-115,209	-44,142	12,324		general and make at a constant and administrative for the set of t		
Long Te	ym Restricted	Long Term Restricted Funds Received	32,560	5,000	15,000	20,000	dans broke er ennedd yn yddyr Grysdy yddolangol	of the definition of the property of the state of the sta	- ( ) de de de de la calca	



# WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

provide emergency medical services in the Town of Wilton. We WVAC is a volunteer-based organization whose purpose is to are also committed to active participation within our community, which includes training and education.

- Our volunteers donated 15,800 hours to staff our duty rigs in
- Responded to 1,367 emergency medical calls in 2017.
- Volunteered an additional 440 hours on 25 community related
- certification purposes and to learn new State issued EMS protocols. Our members attend monthly training meetings required for
- Sponsor EMT classes to attract new members.
- Provide scholarships to our student members assisting them to further their education in the medical profession.
- We provide, at no cost to the Town, administrative services for billing and maintenance services for the paramedics.



# WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

# Challenges WVAC is faced with every year

Unpredictable revenue stream

When preparing our budget, it is difficult to project our call Medicare/Medicaid patients continues to increase each year. volume or the paying agency. Our percentage of

Ever changing membership resources

students away at college. 4 of the new members are from Wilton. In 2017 we welcomed in 8 new members, 4 are high school or

We lost 6 experienced members during the year (5 were crew

We currently have a total of 48 members, 15 that are college or

high school students. College and high school students contribute limited shift hours and other duties.

Uncertainty of major expense items

repair or equipment replacement, with the exception of funds set Our operating budget does not reflect any major equipment aside for a new ambulance every 4 years (\$240,000)

Significant portion of our expenses are non-discretionary



# What WVAC is doing to face those challenges

WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- Creates a conservative revenue budget so we don't spend money we may not get.
- Closely monitors spending throughout our fiscal year.
- inspections of our ambulances, Town's fly cars, and selected Created a new position to perform weekly maintenance equipment to hopefully minimize repair expenses.
- WVAC sponsors EMT classes in Wilton in an effort to attract new volunteers.
- Created a membership rewards program to help members with their out-of-pocket expenses for equipment related to their on duty service, not supplied by WVAC.
- WVAC is expanding its annual appeal mailings to include small and large businesses in Wilton.
- Sets aside sufficient funds each year for future capital expenditures.

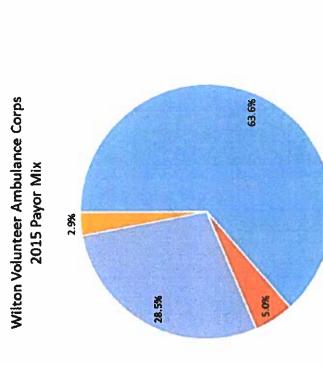


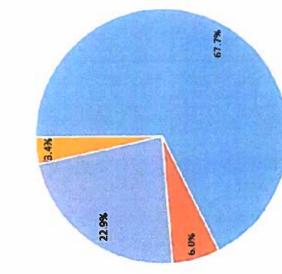
# WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

overall average collection per call amount. In 2018, a commercial or self the commercial pay has decreased 5.6 percent since 2015, lowering our Our Medicare and Medicaid payor mix has increased 5.1 percent, while supplemental payment would be \$450 and Medicaid would be \$290. payer reimbursement would be \$850, while a Medicare plus

Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps

2017 Payor Mix





■ Medicare ■ Medicaid ■ Commercial ■ Self Pay

Medicare
 Medicaid
 Commercial
 Self Pay



# WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

# **WVAC's Financial Condition**

predictability of demand for service and contributions levels are remain a vital service for the residents of the community. No The WVAC Organization relies on Town of Wilton funding to always a concern about our financial condition.

Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps	<b>Audited Results</b>	Results	Town Budget format	et format
Net Income Analysis	FY 2016 FY 2017	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Net Income (loss)	\$65,200	\$65,200 \$113,500	\$51,300	\$54,500
Less: Town Payments	\$67,510	\$119,076	\$67,510 \$119,076 \$97,000	\$97,500
Adjusted Income(Loss)	(\$2,310)	(\$5,576)	(\$2,310) (\$5,576) (\$45,700) (\$43,000)	(\$43,000)
Less: Equipment Reserve	\$60,000	\$60,000 \$60,000	\$60,000	\$72,000
Adjusted Income(Loss)	(\$62,310)	(\$65,576)	(\$62,310) (\$65,576) (\$105,700) (\$115,000)	(\$115,000



# WILTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FY 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION

# WVAC's Financial Condition (continued)

would be strained with no flexibility for growth. WVAC's objective is to show income and cash flow growth to allow the organization to Again, without the Town's funding, WVAC's financial condition look into a facility for our headquarters and other spending.

Cash Flow Analysis	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	6 months 12/31/2017
Net change in Cash	\$53,000	(\$123,000)	\$110,000	(\$113,383)
Investment change	\$72,000	\$280,000	\$75,000	\$40,809
Less Equip. Reserve	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)	(\$30,000)
Adjusted Cash Flow	\$65,000	\$97,000	\$125,000	(\$102,574)
Less: Town Payments	\$83,847	\$67,510	\$119,076	\$48,701
Net change	(\$18,847)	\$29,490	\$5,924	(\$151,275)



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0.5% increase over last year. The request includes \$20,000 for WVAC is requesting funding of \$97,500 from the Town to help offset some of our expenses. This reflects a \$500 or a Workers compensation insurance, which the Town is mandated to fund.

Total request for FY 2019 funding is basically flat vs. the prior year and has decreased 4.4 % since 2016 funding.

+0.5%	+0.5%	-5.4%	NA	% chg. vs. YAG
\$97,500	\$97,000	\$96,500	\$102,023	Adopted
<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	FY 2017	FY 2016	

Details are outlined in the Analysis of Major Variances

## Rochester, Jacqueline

From:

Vanderslice, Lynne

Sent:

Thursday, January 25, 2018 9:25 PM

To:

Rochester, Jacqueline

Subject: Lori's comments

Regarding holiday tree lighting in Wilton Center: Environmental Affairs Director Mike Conklin informed me that almost all the trees in the center are on private property. I walked the center and noted generally there isn't a power source near the trees. The lampposts have a plug at the top which is used for the string lights. Unfortunately the trees are generally not next to a lamppost. This all means the owners of the property will need to agree to the lighting and a power source will need to be identified.

EDC Commissioner John Kelly and interested residents had a conversation with representatives of the Chamber to discuss whether businesses would be willing to put lights on the trees within their property. The representatives expressed concerns about the costs, indicating many of the businesses already contributed to the purchase of the existing lights, lampposts, banners and the big red chair.

Realistically this means any interested residents will need to develop a plan of what trees should be lit, obtain permission from the property owner, work with the owner to determine a power source and fundraise to cover the related the costs. I will follow up with the interested residents to provide this information. It is my recommendation that they keep the Economic Development Commission updated as to their progress.