

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
October 1, 2014 at 6 pm
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: James Burke, Diane Chapman, Jacob White, and Thomas Fitzgerald, Susan Haughwout

Others Present: Scott Murphy, Mary Towne, Jack Deming of Deerfield Valley News, Chris Mays of Brattleboro Reformer, Nicki Steel, Doug Wheeler, Bill Hunt, Mary Jane Finnegan, Adam Grinold, Ann Manwaring, Merrill Mundell, and Joe Szarejko

1. Possible Changes to Agenda, Visitors and Public Comments

a. Agenda Changes:

- After Item #7, Add #8 Police Chief Joe Szarejko Update
- Also in Item #4 add another Liquor License: Request to cater by Hermitage.

b. Visitors and Public Comments:

- Mary Jane Finnegan asked who is responsible for cleaning Memorial Hall because she reported that it has not been left clean after events and she has had to clean it herself when she goes in for her program. Haughwout added that the chairs are set up too close together. Murphy explained that we have a cleaner once a week and tenants are supposed to clean up after themselves too. There was a misunderstanding recently when one tenant did not realize there was an event after them and thought they could clean it the next day. He asked Finnegan to let him know if it happens again.
- Nicki Steel asked when she would be able to comment on the proposed zoning ordinance articles since she was cut off at the hearing and not allowed to talk. The Selectboard will be setting a date tonight for another public hearing, and she will be allowed to speak at that.
- Doug Wheeler spoke about the state paving on Rte 100 South – that aprons into roads were not paved. Murphy said he had spoken to them about it and they said it depended if it is state or federal funding and the recent work was federal and they could not do it. Road Supervisor Bill Hunt said it is a problem on the entrance to Rader Road and will hinder plowing.

2. Minutes: Haughwout moved and White seconded to approve minutes of September 17 & September 24, 2014. Vote: All in favor.

3. Action Items:

a. Road Name: Haughwout moved and White seconded to name a new private road off of Fannie Hill Road McGovern Lane. Vote: All in favor.

b. Resolution: The Selectboard discussed possibly approving a resolution calling for a two year cap on the Statewide Education Property Tax Rate at 2015 levels. Several other towns have adopted the resolution. Discussion included:

- Ann Manwaring asked the Board to consider impacts and implications concerning the resolution.
 - If expenditures are not also capped, then the difference will all fall to taxpayer homesteads to pay.
 - This will disproportionately hurt small rural towns like us and the Twin Valley School District.
 - The state does not control school expenditures – all of the towns do that independently.
 - It is now a big school/small school issue. When Act 60 started there were 20 sending towns and now there are 149.
- Adam Grinold of the School Board said that the efficiency of scale is still to be worked out after the consolidation.
- The Selectboard agreed that the Town needs to send a message. They tabled the issue until they can talk to the School Board for their input.

c. **Adopt NIMS and Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP) for emergency planning:** These documents need to be approved and in place in order to get a larger percentage of funds in a disaster.

- Haughwout moved and Fitzgerald seconded to adopt the NIMS (National Incident Management System) as presented. Vote: All in favor.
- Haughwout moved and Fitzgerald seconded to adopt the Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP) with revisions. Vote: All in favor.

d. **Vote on proposed changes to Zoning Articles IV, V, and Appendix 1 & Set Public Hearing date for discussion of same:** Haughwout moved and Chapman seconded to approve the changes made to Article IV after the last public hearing and proceed with a new Public Hearing. Vote: All in favor. They set a date of Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 6 pm in the town hall meeting room to receive public comment on Zoning Articles IV, V, and Appendix 1.

4. **Liquor and Outside Consumption Licenses:**

- a. Chapman moved and White seconded to approve a First Class/Restaurant Liquor License and an Outside Consumption Permit for 9 West Main Foods, LLC dba Mangia e Bev. Vote: All in favor.
- b. Haughwout moved and White seconded to approve a First Class/Restaurant Liquor License, a Second Class Liquor License, and an Outside Consumption Permit for The Village Roost, LLC, dba The Village Roost Café & Marketplace at 20 West Main St (formerly Fennessey's).
- c. Haughwout moved and White seconded to approve a Request to Cater permit by HCOC, LLC d.b.a. Hermitage Golf Club at a private party October 10-12, 2014 at 183 Gatehouse Trail. Vote: All in favor.

5. **Sewer Commissioners Meeting:** White moved and Chapman seconded to recess the Selectboard meeting and enter a sewer commission meeting. Vote: All in favor. Meeting opened at 6:55pm.

- a. Haughwout moved and Chapman seconded to amend the approval of a Wastewater Allocation Permit that was previously approved on 8/20/14 for Cameo Builders, LLC at 9 West Main St.. The amendment increases their allocation from 50 seats to 100, with a one bedroom apartment. The allocation to be purchased will increase from 1,005 gpd to 2,505 gpd. Vote: All in favor.
- b. Burke moved and White seconded to approve a 3 month extension of preliminary approval of wastewater allocation to Tony Lopez for 280 gpd for a new 2 bedroom single family home on Route 9 east. Vote: All in favor.

The Sewer Commission meeting adjourned at 7pm and the Selectboard meeting resumed.

6. **The Selectboard to Complete the Review of Open Highway Position:** The Selectboard had wanted to discuss any job openings that came up to see if the positions could be cut or part time. After discussion the board decided by consensus that this position will remain full time.

7. **Windham Solid Waste Issues:** Merrill Mundell, Wilmington's representative to the district, came to discuss the status of the district and upcoming issues. The Board thanked him and asked that he keep them updated.

8. **Police Department:** Police Chief Joe Szarejko came to update the board on the following issues:
- a. Police Cruiser – One year it was not replaced and we have paid dearly for it in maintenance and repairs. He feels it is important to keep up the yearly rotation. Ford has come out with a police package that is a better option than the current cruisers and he will be requesting that in his budget for next year.
 - b. There has been a lot of overtime due to recent incidents. It has been a busy summer including burglaries, a stabbing, and suicide attempts. They have solved some cases and have suspects in other cases.
 - c. In reply to how the public can help, Szarejko replied that some businesses and homeowners have gotten no trespass orders and some are installing cameras. It is simple to get a no trespass order – just go to the police department and fill out a form. If anyone sees anything out of the ordinary, they should let the police know. Also lock houses, windows, and cars. Adam Grinold said Wilmington Works has spoken

with Szarejko and they have distributed a letter listing things to do. Businesses can share the names of no trespassers and landlords could share people that they do not want to rent to.

- d. Three brand new tasers with accessories have been donated to the department. Szarejko plans to train officers extensively before any use. A course is coming up in November. He will be coming back to the board with a detailed policy prior to implementing their use. Currently officers do carry pepper spray, but officers may be alone at night and it is a big deterrent just to see the taser on the belt. Several towns use them including Dover and the State Police.

The board thanked Szarejko for the report and his department's work.

9. Correspondence to/from Selectboard:

- a. The board discussed a letter of complaint that the Fire Chief had not responded to repeated calls requesting use of the four-wheeler at a fund raising walk. Murphy responded that he had talked to Chief March and there was miscommunication between parties. March had been out of town for a funeral but he had set it up before he left that a fireman was supposed to take it to the walk, but didn't. Murphy said he was sorry it happened and it will be there next year.
- b. The Act 250 log was reviewed and no action taken.

10. Other Business - Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items:

- a. Comments on the foliage that was beautiful last weekend and should be good this week.
- b. The budget process will begin soon.

11. Town Manager's Updates:

- a. The bid for the Coldbrook Road Culvert has been awarded to Zaluzny Construction and the work will be done next year. The road will likely need to be closed for a period for the construction.
- b. Herrick lawsuit closure: The motion to dismiss was approved by the judge so it is now complete after the settlement was reached.
- c. Murphy asked if the board would like to hold a joint meeting with the Dover Selectboard to discuss regional joint services. Also the Bi-Town Committee, emergency services, and department heads would be included. The board agreed to have Murphy set it up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne
Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

James R. Burke, Chair

Diane Chapman, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

Thomas J. Fitzgerald