

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
October 19, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, Diane Chapman, Susie Haughwout, Vince Rice, John Gannon @ 6:03 pm

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine & Dennis Richter, Tom Consolino, Cheryl LaFlamme, Merrill Mundell, Craig Ohlson, Mike Eldred-Deerfield Valley News

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda

Remove item # 7. Changes to the personnel rules have not been completed yet. Murphy will have the rules with changes made distributed to the Board before the next meeting.

Add a possible road closure under item #3.

2. Approve Minutes of September 7 & October 12, 2016

Haughwout moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2016, Rice second; Haughwout, Rice and Fitzgerald in favor, Chapman abstained due to absence. *Gannon arrived at this time*

Chapman moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2016, Rice second; 4 in favor, Haughwout abstained due to absence.

3. Action Items

-Haughwout moved to approve signing a Resolution of support for the application for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG), to adopt an expanded river corridor and flood hazard management regulation, Gannon second; all in favor.

-Friends of Memorial Hall have requested that the road be blocked off from the Baptist Church on North Main St to Memorial Hall on Saturday, October 22 starting at 7:50 pm. The Pipe band that is performing would like to march from their rehearsal space at the church to their performance site at Memorial Hall. Murphy talked to Detective Denault as Chief Szarejko is out of town. Chapman moved to approve the road closure for the bag pipe band on October 22, 2016, Gannon second; all in favor.

Haughwout moved to go into Liquor Commission at 6:06 pm, Gannon second; all in favor.

4. Liquor Commission: Liquor License applications

Haughwout moved to approve an Open Container Exemption Permit and a Request to Cater Permit for a concert being held at Memorial Hall on November 12, 2016 by The Friends of Memorial Hall and catered by Jim's Bistro @ The Roadhouse dba The Roadhouse, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission at 6:07 pm

5. Merrill Mundell to Discuss the WWSWD Budget Proposals

Mr. Mundell, the Town's representative on the Windham Solid Waste Management District Board, discussed two proposed budgets for the District and explained the possible effects on the Town. Doing away with the MRF (Municipal Recycling Facility) was discussed, along with the pros and cons. The Town would end up with another \$71,000+ in costs. Wilmington has two recycling centers, the one on Beaver Street having a high volume, as it is used by many from other towns within the district. The Board discussed the possibility of doing away with the recycling center on Beaver Street. Mundell briefly discussed composting and the future necessity for it. Assessment methods were discussed. The WSWMD is currently assessed based on population. Some towns are pushing for Grand List assessment, but this would have a negative impact on smaller towns like Wilmington. Withdrawing from the Solid Waste district was an option that was discussed. The Board agreed that looking into all options for next budget season would be beneficial. Mundell would like the MRF to stay open one more year and revisit the possibility of closing it again next year. The Board agreed to continue one more year with the District and review all available options next year.

6. Health Insurance Plan Renewal and Discussion

Christine Richter, the Town’s Finance and HR Officer, discussed the renewal of the Town’s current Blue Cross and Blue Shield Health Plan. A renewal needs to be authorized by December 1st for effective dates of 1/1/17 – 12/31/17. A cost analysis for our current plan as well as other options with BCBS was presented. The Board agreed to remain with the plan the Town is currently enrolled in. The Town cost to remain with the current plan includes a 4% increase which is the smallest increase among all of the Blue Cross Blue Shield options.

7. Review of Possible Changes to Municipal Personnel Policy

Removed from agenda

8. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

9. Other Business

The Board briefly discussed the Hermitage/East Tract Hearing Recess. Murphy informed the Board of a request he received from Honora Winery-Patty Farrington. The Board previously granted her a 90 day extension to pay her sewer allocation fees. Her extension period is up and she is now asking for an additional 60 day extension. She has not paid any of her allocation fees, and her permits are still pending from the state. The Board agreed to another 60 day extension with the condition that she pay at least half of her current 25% allocation fee due.

10. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

Gannon would like a few items to be put on future agendas to finish them up: VTrans and the potential takeover of part of Rt 9, an overall 1% policy, Gretchen’s presentation on current and future projects. He also would like it considered that new employees sit in on a Selectboard meeting, and new officers should be sworn in at a Selectboard meeting. Murphy felt that this was a good suggestion and would try to arrange that whenever possible.

Fitzgerald commented that the Planning Commission feels that the report they had submitted after their planning day was not taken into considered when Gretchen was researching current and future projects. They also want more research done on ways to compensate volunteers.

Haughwout suggested polling other towns using the Muni-net to see if/how they compensate their volunteers.

Haughwout and Rice commented on the Dept Head monthly reports and the financial reports that are supposed to be sent out monthly.

11. Town Manager’s Report

Dates for budget discussions will be sent out soon.

Discussions on the possible road takeover and 1% policy will be put on the upcoming agendas.

Chapman moved to adjourn at 7:35, Gannon second; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jessica DeFrancesco
Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman

Susan Joy Haughwout

Vincent Rice, Clerk