

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
October 4, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher **Absent:** Ann Manwaring

Others Present: Jessica DeFrancesco, Cheryl LaFlamme, Cindy Hayford, Nicki Steel, Gretchen Havreluk, Meg Streeter, Meg Staloff, Diane & Lenny Chapman, Janet Boyd, Andy Hauty, Susie Haughwout, John Howe, Adam Grinold, Cammie Swanson, Steve Butler, Karen Molina, Chris Mays, Mike Eldred

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of September 20 and 22, 2017, & amend minutes of September 6, 2017
Minutes of September 6, 2017; vote 3-0 Gannon abstained
Minutes of September 20, 2017; vote- all in favor
Minutes of September 22, 2017; vote 3-0 Gannon abstained
3. Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing
The hearing was opened at 6:05 pm. The Planning Commission did not revise their report, which was just a date change. Due to this technicality, the hearing could not continue. The Board voted unanimously to recess the hearing until October 18, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office.
4. Approve Zoning Ordinance
5. Old School Enrichment Committee
OSEC presented an amended 1% Local Option Tax Fund request to the Selectboard, requesting \$60,000. This request comes after OSEC representatives met with Fitzgerald and Gannon and discussed the project and funding needs. OSEC now owns the building. The new request would pay for repairs to the asphalt roof. The Steven's study estimated \$74,000 to replace the roof. The Committee has gotten an estimate to repair the asphalt roof, which is \$60,000. Gannon moved to approve Old School Enrichment Council's 1% Local Option Tax Fund request for \$60,000, Fisher second.

Comments:

Haughwout-although is in favor of a community center, she does not feel any tax payer or 1% money should go into it. OSEC should apply for tax exempt status. She feels it is the fiduciary and elected responsibility to focus on municipal needs such as moving emergency services out of the flood plain. When the Moover went to 501C3 status, the Selectboard wrote a letter of support but also told the Moover not to ask the Town for any funding. As a 501C3, the Moover has provided 13 full time, year-round jobs with salaries ranging from \$8-40/hour, as well as providing many seasonal jobs.

Butler-thanked OSEC for all the hard work they have done. The taxpayers and town should not be putting any money into the building except to remove the oil tank. It is unfair to taxpayers to see money going into this when Fire, Police and the Town Offices are sitting in the flood plain. These need to be prioritized. Spending money on this building should be taken to a town vote.

Gannon-The old school is a potential location for moving the town offices out of the flood plain. Many closed schools sit vacant and deteriorate. The old school building would end up a liability when it should be an asset if nothing is done with it.

Steel- Having an emergency shelter where it had once been and was successful is important. There are many possibilities for that building.

Chapman–When the Governor came to visit last week he was very supportive of the project. The goal is to make this a model for other towns who will be facing school closures in the future.

Haughwout–When is the Selectboard going to address the rising taxes and using 1% money to lower them? When are you going to stop spending on “extras” and start spending on necessities?

Grinold– Business owners collect the taxes that fund the 1% Local Option Tax Fund. They have accepted this tax. If it comes down to offsetting the tax rate with the 1% funds or not having the fund, He would rather not have it at all.

Vote: all in favor.

6. Action Items
7. Other Business
8. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

Gannon– Havreluk’s Economic Development Consultant contract needs to be signed. Fisher has some issues within the contract and would like a special meeting to discuss them. They will hold a special meeting on Friday, October 6 at 8 am.

Gannon also commented that the high tax rate is because of the education fund, not because of municipalities. The legislature needs to fix the high taxes.

Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 6:38 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Ann Manwaring