

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
February 18, 2015 at 6 pm
MINUTES

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

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, Chris Mays of Brattleboro Reformer, Jack Deming of Deerfield Valley News, Tom Consolino, Sherry Manning of EAP, Sandra Kingsley, Gretchen Havreluk, Susan Lawrence, Fred Skwirut

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda:

Murphy removed item #9, Hermitage Fire Agreement.

Jack Demming informed the board that he will be moving to New York City next month to work for American Lawyer media.

2. Minutes:

White moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2015 Chapman second; all in favor.

3. Liquor and Tobacco Licenses:

Second Class License Renewals for Rite Aid, Sonny's Cup and Saucer dba C&S, Jolley Associates dba Short Stop Mobil, and a First Class Hotel License Red Mill LTD dba the Old Red Mill have been submitted. Haughwout moved to approve the second class license renewals for Rite Aid, C&S, and Short Stop Mobil, and the first class hotel license for The Old Red Mill, Chapman second; all in favor.

4. Action Items:

None

5. Sherry Manning of Invest EAP:

Sherry Manning discussed with the board, the Employee Assistance Program that they are eligible for through the town. There are counselors available 24/7 via telephone, and they can receive 3-5 free visits with a counselor free of charge. The program is funded through VLCT.

6. CDBG-Disaster Recovery Buy-Out Public Facilities Grant Application:

Murphy explained to the board that there is a grant that they can apply for regarding the re-use of the Sprague property on RT 100N. Murphy is proposing a pavilion to create a picnic area for family gatherings. Blue Mountain Produce owner Sandra Kingsley came before the board to express her concerns with this project. She has equipment in her back parking lot that would be exposed to many different types of people coming and going to the picnic area. She also worries about people using her limited parking. Board members inquired about a fence, but determined that it wouldn't be a feasible solution. Fred Skwirut voiced his support for such a project, stating that many towns have pavilions that get much use. Wilmington has picnic areas, but nowhere that is covered to protect from inclement weather. Haughwout stated that she does not feel there is a particular need for a recreational area that could have a negative impact on business owners. Murphy suggested applying for the grant while working with the adjacent property owner to try to mitigate her concerns. The deadline for the grant is February 23rd. Burke moved to pursue the CDBG Disaster Recovery Buyout Public Facilities Grant Application, White second; 1-in favor (White), 4-opposed.

7. VT Downtown Program Grant Application for South Main St Sidewalks:

Gretchen Havreluk and Susan Lawrence approached the board with a grant proposal to replace the South Main St sidewalks, add granite curbing, and make them wider and more handicap accessible and to also install historic lighting on the East side. An Engineering study would be needed to complete the final design. Murphy explained that this grant would be a 50/50 grant and it is not matched by federal funds so they would not have to meet federal requirements, which would allow the project to proceed more easily and be finished sooner. Susan Lawrence stated that Wilmington Works will coordinate with the entire downtown to make it a cohesive look throughout the whole downtown. The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$141,000. Consolino asked for some clarification on the project and where the town's portion of the funds would come from. Havreluk explained that it would be funded through the Matching Grant Line Item that is already in the budget. Lawrence also stated that Wilmington Works is putting together a sponsorship for the lights, \$3000 each, and there is a lot of interest in sponsorship so that will help offset the town's match. Haughwout moved to adopt the resolution to support an application by the Town to the VT Downtown Development Program for funding the sidewalk project, Chapman second; all in favor.

8. Local Option Tax Fund Request:

Havreluk approached the board with an application for funds to hire a one-on-one business consultant. She feels that it would be useful assistance as there are a handful of struggling businesses in the area. Margie Johnson from "Shop Talk" would consult with 8 or 9 business owners one-on-one; pre-registration would be required and it is offered on a first come/first serve basis. Havreluk is requesting \$5,150; \$500 airfare, \$250 rental car, \$4,400 consults. Chapman asked if Havreluk felt all 9 slots could be filled, and Burke asked if 9 would be enough. Havreluk feels that there wouldn't be an issue getting 8 or 9 businesses signed up. Consolino commented that it doesn't seem right that not all businesses would be able to participate. Havreluk replied that it is first come/first serve just like the façade program and that this type of assistance has already been offered in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. Haughwout and Chapman both stated that if it was a success and there was more of a demand, Havreluk could come back with another application for more funding to offer this consultation to more businesses. Consolino feels that it is a slippery slope to get on and the town shouldn't pay business' consultation bills. Consolino inquired about doing a seminar instead. Havreluk commented that business owners would not stand up in front of other business owners and discuss their business struggles. Chapman moved to approve a request of \$5,150 for one-on-one business consultation services for businesses in Wilmington with Margie Johnson of "Shop Talk" through the 1% Local Option Tax Fund, White second; all in favor.

9. Hermitage Fire Agreement:

Removed from agenda

10. Correspondence to/from Selectboard:

Reviewed mail and Act 250 log

11. Other Business:

None

12. Selectboard Members Comments and Other Action Items:

- a. White-he had -71° with wind chill at his house the other day. The Fire Dept helped to locate a lost skier last week. He had ended up going over the other side of the mountain towards Somerset. Numerous agencies were called out; VSP, West Dover, Wardsboro, Game Wardens, Rescue.

- b. Haughwout-attended a recent school board meeting to discuss getting help setting up the former High School for Town Meeting.

13. Town Manager Updates:

Reimbursement of State Share of FEMA Projects-while all documentation requested had been submitted 2 years ago, they are claiming they haven't received some of it, so he and Christine have been working on getting it together again. Progress is being made and hopefully the final projects will be closed out soon and the retained funding will be released.

Murphy attended local government day in Montpelier today. The Clean Water Act was discussed. Vermont's EPA Application was denied and a lawsuit has since been filed. The state is proposing up to 10 fees to help remediate water quality issues, some of which would pertain to town roads. They are proposing tremendously high standards and it could end up costing many small towns a lot of money.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment informational hearing is next week. A flyer will be going out explaining out the details of the project.

Burke moved to adjourn meeting at 7:20 pm, Haughwout second; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

James R. Burke, Chair

Diane Chapman, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

Thomas J. Fitzgerald