

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission

April 1, 2015 at 6 pm

MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Diane Chapman, Thomas Fitzgerald, Jacob White, Susan Haughwout; John Gannon

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, Chris May of Brattleboro Reformer, Tom Consolino, Robin & John Howe, Arlene Palmiter, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Gretchen Havreluk, Ken March, Chuck Clerici, Peter & Kathleen Wallace, Lucy Gibson of Dubois & King, Lisa Sullivan

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Changes to Agenda:

Murphy removed the Memorial Hall Board Status from “Selectboard Members Comment and Other Action Items”

2. Minutes:

Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015 White second; All in favor

3. Liquor and Tobacco Licenses:

Gannon moved to approve: a First Class Liquor License **and an Outside Consumption Permit** for the following: Small Dark & Handsome, LLC dba Small Dark & Handsome, 178 Route 9 East; L & S Inc dba North Star Bowl, 179 Route 100 North; The Village Roost LLC dba The Village Roost, 20 West Main St; Also, a Request to Cater Permit and Open Container Ordinance Exemption for Jazz Concerts at Memorial Hall catered by Vt Liquor Licensee Wilmington Village Pub, Inc for 5/23, 6/20, 7/25, 8/15, 9/19, & 10/10/2015. A Second Class License renewal for Brockton Corp dba Shaw’s Bear & Wine, 97 East Main St, Fitzgerald second; all in favor

4. Action Items:

Annual Financial Plan-Town Highway Financial Plan gets approved yearly. Chapman moved to certify the annual financial plan for town highway stating that funds raised by municipal taxes are equivalent or greater to the amount required to maintain our Class 2 & 3 roads, Fitzgerald second; all in favor.

Transfer Station Fees- At their previous meeting, the Selectboard voted that the cost per bag for seniors would be \$1.00 starting July 1, 2015, as the state is no longer allowing free bags. Senior discount needs to be greater than the Town’s cost of approximately \$1.30/bag, Murphy proposed \$1.50. White inquired about setting it at \$1.50 for the first 2 bags, and Murphy replied that could create an accounting issue. Haughwout suggested a handout be created and given to seniors when they visit the transfer station laying out new fees and start date.

Consolino wanted verification that there will be no free bags for seniors starting July 1, 2015. Haughwout moved to approve an adjusted rate for Seniors from \$1.00 to \$1.50, Chapman second; all in favor.

5. Final Presentation of Streetscape Scoping Study Project::

Lucy Gibson of Dubois & King presented a PowerPoint laying out the final presentation of the scoping study they had been working on. Gateways coming into the downtown area, widening some sidewalks on North & South Main St, and also a Green Belt buffer on East Main were presented. White expressed hesitancy to widen the sidewalks on South Main, as it is already narrow, and traffic can bottleneck as it is. Some proposals, such as bulb-outs, would need state approval, since they would be on state roads. Gannon stated that he agreed with White; there needs to be a balance between improving pedestrian traffic and adequate roadways for vehicles, and emergency equipment. Haughwout commented on the project breakdown, and found it very useful. Consolino asked how many parking spaces would be lost downtown. Gibson replied that the goal was to preserve all the parking that is currently there.

6. Energy Consultant Chuck Clerici:

Clerici discussed possible upcoming solar opportunities that the Town may benefit from. Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) is looking to work with a solar provider from California to create a solar field. The amount of solar proposed, if the Town chose to partake, could possibly cover 100% of the Town's Municipal electricity. There would be no out of pocket expense for the Town, but they may have to enter into a power purchase agreement with WSWMD. . Murphy stated that a settlement was reached and they are now entering contract negotiations. The lifespan of the panels is about 25 years, with 80% productivity at the 25th year. Clerici also wanted to discuss the Fire Police Relocation. He feels that if it is taken on in the same capacity that the Highway Garage was, it could be done at a lesser cost than what has been proposed. Clerici suggested creating a committee to possibly put together a 2-bid process similar to what was done for highway. March stated that there are businesses that specialize in Public Safety Buildings. There are also seminars held throughout the year that cover the whole process, including setting up a committee. Clerici replied that he would be willing to sit on such a committee again.

7. Memorial Day Special Traffic Regulations:

The Memorial Day parade will be Monday, May 25th and the route will be the same; Country Store to S Main, turn onto Beaver St, and end at the former high school. White moved to approve the Special Traffic Regulations for the Memorial Day parade, Chapman second; all in favor.

8. 1% Local Option Tax Fund Guidelines:

Discussion on the parameters of the 1% Guidelines. Haughwout explained to the Board that statutorily they could not call for a special town meeting for the voters to vote on an expenditure over \$50,000. They could hold an informational meeting to get a feel for how voters felt about such expenditures. There was further discussion on this information and potential changes. Lisa Sullivan suggested a dialogue about long range goals for the 1% may be helpful. Haughwout stated that there is a positive track record regarding the Board's approval of 1% requests the past couple of years. Chapman suggested a work session be scheduled to discuss the 1% guidelines before any changes were made, so they could all be on the same page. Tuesday, April 7th, 5 pm was agreed upon. The Selectboard members will send their comments and suggestions for changes to Murphy for collation before the meeting.

9. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

The Board discussed a letter from a resident regarding Act250 fines.

10. Other Business:

None

11. Selectboard Members Comments and Other Action Items:

Haughwout-there are open comment times on a couple of Act250 applications and the Board should consider commenting. Comments can be positive; they don't always have to be negative. The Board agreed that they are in favor of both applications and WRC Rep Consolino will make their opinions known at the next meeting. Consolino inquired about Board presence at the next Project Review Committee meeting. Haughwout will be present; the other Board members will not be, as they have a work session that same night.

Haughwout also wanted to make note that if a member recused themselves from a vote or discussion, they should leave the room for the duration of said discussion.

Gannon-wanted to let the Board know that Act361 is something that they should be watching.

Ex-Officios- Haughwout moved to appoint Fitzgerald as Planning Commission Ex-Officio, White as Trails Ex-Officio, Gannon as Recreation Commission Ex-Officio, and Gannon as Selectboard Appointee to Wilmington Works, Chapman second; all in favor.

12. Town Manager Updates:

Murphy suggested a meeting with local legislatures, as the Board typically does this time of year. The Board agreed it would be beneficial. Murphy will get their availability and set it up.

A security agreement between The Hermitage Club and the Police Chief has been reached. They will now have 24/7-365 coverage, and all of their buildings in the village are included in this agreement.

There will be DRB training on June 15th and the Selectboard is invited to attend.

A taxpayer has submitted a Tax Stabilization Request. It will be on the next agenda. Murphy will invite the Listers for discussion before the Selectboard enters into Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Diane Chapman, Chair

Thomas J. Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

John Gannon