

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission

May 4, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Susan Haughwout

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, John Lazelle, Jason Booth of Aldrich & Elliott, Craig Ohlson, Pat Jacobs, Anna Drozdowski, Pat Johnson, Larry Nutting, Denise Andersen, Mike Eldred of Deerfield Valley News, Carol & Bill Herbert, Cindy & Lou Beaudette

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 pm

1. **Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda**
None

2. **Approve Minutes of April 20 and April 27, 2016**
Gannon moved to approve the minutes of April 20 and April 27, 2016, Rice second; 3-1 Haughwout abstained due to absence.

3. **Action Items**
None

Fitzgerald moved to go into Liquor Commission, Gannon second; all in favor.

4. **Liquor Commission: Liquor License**
Gannon moved to approve a Request to Cater Permit by Jim's Bistro at the Roadhouse and an Open Container Ordinance Exemption Permit by The Friends of Historic Memorial Hall for an event held at Memorial Hall on May 21, 2016, Haughwout second; all in favor.

Exited Liquor Commission

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Refurbishment Project Update**
The Selectboard heard from Jason Booth of Aldrich and Elliott on the progress of the WWTP project. Booth reviewed the budget and the grant funds. When the project is complete, there could be around \$60,000 left from the \$533,000 worth of grant funds to do other minor things at the plant like paving. The project is on schedule and the contractor should be finished at the end of the month. Bond repayment was discussed briefly.

Haughwout moved to enter into Sewer Commission at 6:10 pm, Gannon second; all in favor.

6. **Sewer Budget for FY 17**
The Sewer Commissioners discussed the possibility of approving the Sewer Budget at the same time as the General Fund. The ECU Rate would still be set in late July-early August. They discussed the bond and the different possible ways to repay it. Haughwout moved to approve the FY 17 Sewer Budget, Gannon second; all in favor.

7. **East Main Street Sewer Line**
The Sewer Commissioners heard from East Main Street property owners (Anna Drozdowski, Pat Johnson, Pat Jacobs, and Denise Andersen) about the private sewer line. Last spring Drozdowski had sewer back up in her basement due to the house below her having frozen pipes. Johnson has recently had a back up issue due to clogged lines above her. The homeowners are looking to the Town to possibly help them fix this ongoing problem. The sewer line runs from house to house through the basements, and then connects to the municipal line. The line that goes from house to house is considered a private line until it connects to the main. The houses across the street had issues many years back and, after an Inflow/Infiltration study was done, the Town hooked each house into the main line directly. Lazelle feels that the houses hooking to the main line directly is the best option and is a

requirement of the Town's Sewer Ordinance, however they all have to do it or none of them can. One resident had suggested the town do a power flushing a couple times a year to help keep clogs from happening. Lazelle stated that by doing that it opens the town up legally and they were advised by VLCT not to do any maintenance or takeover. Haughwout asked the Board if, since the town had paid to have the other side of the street hooked up individually, should they take a similar interest of a partnership with the homeowners now? The subject of cost and who would be responsible for paying to hook up each house to the main line was mentioned. Technically, as it is considered a private line, the homeowners would be responsible. There are state permits, and possibly engineering costs that would be required. There is one vacant house in the group that would need to be hooked up also. The Town will look into a way to get the vacant house hooked up, but the homeowners need to come up with a project plan, cost estimates, and should look into the EPA suggestions for funds. Murphy mentioned the Town has the Revolving Loan Fund available to help with funding. The homeowners will try and be ready in two weeks to sit with the Board again to hopefully determine a definitive solution.

The Board exited Sewer Commission at 7:05 pm

8. Town Manager Goals

The Town Manager and Selectboard discussed the Town Manager Goals drafted recently by the Selectboard. The Town Manager suggested a few deadline changes which the Board agreed to. They discussed the Fire Department item and ways to strengthen the Department. Murphy will set up another meeting with the Fire Dept to discuss what a potential merger would mean to them.

9. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

Senior Solutions sent out an RFP looking for an entity to take over the Senior Meals Program. The Jacksonville program was the only one cut in Windham County due to funding cuts. The Jacksonville program costs about \$40,000 a year and serves many communities such as Halifax, Whitingham, Searsburg, Readsboro, Wilmington. Gannon will be attending the luncheon on May 6th to try and get more answers as to why this program was the only one cut.

10. Other Business

None

11. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

Rice asked about the status of finding a town attorney. There have been several more inquiries and a few RFQ responses. All responses need to be in by May 13th, so this should be on the agenda the following week.

Fitzgerald mentioned the parking issue on West Main St.

12. Town Manager's Updates

The Town Manager to review certain aspects of the Open Meeting Law-will wait until next meeting when all members are present.

Water Quality Meeting to be held 5/5/16 in Town Meeting Room.-Gannon & Fitzgerald will be attending.

Memorial Hall improvements.-Insulation has been put in; volunteers came in and painted the back drop and fixed the movie screen so it is easier to use; three doors on the Crafts Inn side are being installed this week, the front doors should be in at the end of May.

Rice moved to adjourn at 7:40 pm, 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