

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
June 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Minutes

Present- Diane Chapman, Tom Fitzgerald, Susan Haughwout, Jake White, John Gannon

Others Present- Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, Chris Mays of Brattleboro Reformer, Mike Eldred of Deerfield Valley News, Bill Hunt, Bob Fisher, James Barnes, Lynn Matthews, Heidi Taylor, Steven Bartlett, Granville Gargiulo, Mary Cooper, Christine Richter, Frank Sprague, Mace Sebbby

1. 6:00 Public Hearing for the Classification of a portion of Haystack Road

Chapman called the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm. Public comments were heard as follows:

Highway Supervisor Bill Hunt-classifying Haystack Rd as a class 4 road would mean there would be little to no maintenance done on the road other than water structures such as culverts and run-offs. It would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring the length of the road to class 3 standards.

Bob Fisher representing self & Hermitage Inn Real Estate Holdings- Feels it should be upgraded to a class 3 and maintained year round. It could then be used as an alternate route in the busy winter months when the center of town gets backed up. A high percentage of tax payers are in the Chimney Hill area. Different cost avenues were discussed, including developers paying for the upgrades for the town to take it over.

Jim Barnes-public safety and emergency personnel (Deerfield Valley Rescue, Fire, Police) would benefit greatly if Haystack Rd were a class 3 and maintained by the Town. GPS currently directs travelers down this road and many get stuck as it is not always plowed. The majority of the road works today, so it should not cost very much to fix up the rest of the road. The hearing was closed at 6:22 pm. The Board has up to 60 days to discuss and make a decision on this road classification.

2. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda

- Mace Sebbby, concerned parents, and children approached the Board regarding the condition and safety of Buzzy Towne Park. Jack McHale, Isaac Park, Lucas Messing, and Aaron Soskin addressed the Board regarding needles being found, fights breaking out, graffiti on the basketball hoops. They felt trash cans as well as picnic tables would be helpful for the programs (Valley Youth Sports & others) that use the field. Sebbby stated that parents and kids would volunteer to clean up the park, and even help put in another playground. The Board made comments about more police presence at the park and also to reiterate that reporting any questionable behavior would be helpful.

3. Approve Minutes of June 3, 2015 (including date change)

- Chapman moved to accept the minutes of June 3, 2015 with the date correction, Fitzgerald second; all in favor.

4. Liquor and Tobacco Licenses

- Haughwout moved to approve a Request to Cater Permit and an Open Container Ordinance Exemption for the Wilmington Village Pub, Inc being held at Memorial Hall on July 5, 2015 and October 24, 2015 in conjunction with "Friends of Memorial Hall", Fitzgerald second; all in favor.

5. Action Items

- The self-assessment financial management questionnaire completed by the Town Treasurer for compliance with the State Auditors annual request is complete and the Board needs to review and sign it. The Board agreed that it looks ok, Chapman signed the report.
- Patrick Williams reported and assisted fighting a fire near the Nutmeg Inn on April 6, 2015. Fitzgerald moved to recognize and sign a Certificate of Appreciation for Patrick Williams, Chapman second; all in favor.
- Murphy discussed the next step in the WWTP Refurbishment Project. This loan will allow the Town to start construction. The Bond anticipation loan of \$1,597,000 will have 1.2% interest. Haughwout moved to execute the Loan Documents, sign the Loan Resolution, & authorize Signature Card for Treasurer for USDA-required “bridge loan” through People’s Bank for interim financing for WWTP Refurbishment Project, Chapman second; all in favor.

6. Police/Fire Department Relocation Committee Formation & Charge

- Chuck Clerici and Chief Szarejko discussed with the Board the draft Charge and potential language changes. It was suggested the ad for volunteers include language as “non first responders” as Fire, Police, & Rescue will already be represented on the committee. Fire Chief Ken March had previously recommended using the Breadloaf study as a basis to build upon. Discussed the six-month deadline and if it was reasonable. Clerici feels it will be possible to accomplish. Gannon would like “consider existing buildings that could be modified to save taxpayers money” added to the charge. Clerici stated that working with the Economic Development Specialist, and possibly looking into a CDBG grant may be helpful in retaining funds to reduce the burden on taxpayers. An ad will be put in the Deerfield Valley News next week.

7. Historic District Discussion

- The Board tabled this discussion until next meeting.

8. Reaffirmation (or Not) of Town’s Homestead Declaration Waiver Policy

- Haughwout moved to reaffirm the Town policy regarding the no-charge waiver penalties for late filers of the Homestead Declaration, Chapman second; all in favor.

9. Personnel Policy Changes Proposals

- Pay for On-call Police Officers-Haughwout discussed the process of amending the personnel policy as it has been done in the past. Murphy stated that on-call officers is not addressed in the current policy and it leaves the Town open for liability. Gannon and Haughwout feel a decision should not be made without the cost impact to look at. Chief Szarejko stated that “restricted” officers are not able to leave their house as they have to be ready and within seconds of their cruisers if they get called out. The “restricted” on-call hours would at most be 31 hours per week. White commented that he is in favor of compensating these on-call hours as it is tremendously restricting their lives. Further discussion is tabled until a future meeting.

10. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

- Reviewed mail

11. Other Business

- Possible reschedule of July 1st Selectboard Meeting-Board decided to meet July 8th and 22nd.
- The dissolution of former Memorial Hall Board Charge-Charge expired in 2013 and a set of guidelines was put in place. The guidelines should be rescinded. Murphy will put it on the next Board agenda.
- Selectboard representative for Tax Sale June 26, 2015 @ 9:00-Fitzgerald volunteered and the Board discussed which parcels to bid on and which not to.

12. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

- Chapman-The hospital has decided to build on the Old School property. Suggested a dialog for the next agenda regarding the Town's role within the Old School.
- Possibly discuss the Revolving Loan limit on the next agenda and project language as well.
- White-there is still ice on Haystack Mtn. A wetlands consultant will be coming out Friday and hiking part of the Valley Trail with him.
- Haughwout-During the last Cold Brook Fire meeting Hermitage requested to drill a well on top of Haystack Mountain. As this is part of the Glebelands, and no request had been made to the Town, CBFDD intends to inform the Hermitage that they need to meet with the Town to discuss the Glebelands lease.

13. Town Manager's Updates

- Set FY16 Tax Rate with Special Meeting-as the Board of Abatement is meeting at 5:30 pm on June 24th, the Board agreed to meet at 6 pm to set the FY16 tax rate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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