

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
August 5, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Minutes

Present: Diane Chapman, Tom Fitzgerald, Jacob White, John Gannon

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco, Mike Eldred, Chris Mays, Anna Drozdowski, Ann Manwaring, Wayne Elliott, Jason Booth, Meg Streeter, Gretchen Havreluk, Adam Grinold, John Lazelle, Laura Sibia, Dennis & Christine Richter, Phil Taylor

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda
None
2. Approve Minutes of July 22, 2015
White moved to approve the minutes of July 22, 2015, Fitzgerald second; all in favor.
3. Action Items
 - DRB member Adam Lemire has submitted his resignation as he has moved out of the area. The Selectboard accepted his resignation with regret.
 - Fitzgerald moved to approve a **Special Traffic Regulations** request for a road closure of Beaver St for the DVFD Fair on Thursday 8/20 from 4PM to 10:30PM, on Friday 8/21 from 4:00 PM to 10:30 PM, Saturday 8/22 from 8 AM to 10:30 PM, and Sunday 8/23 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Chapman second; all in favor.
 - The Hermitage Club requests permission to proceed with a drilled well for Mountain Cabins. This is not the well that was discussed with the Coldbrook Fire District and it is not on the watershed land. Manwaring feels, as a taxpayer, that since the well is on taxpayer land and it will be used for a profit-making entity, then the taxpayers should receive value back from the Hermitage.
4. State Representatives Ann Manwaring & Laura Sibia
Representative Manwaring discussed the state General Fund and Education Fund. Manwaring and Representative Sibia discussed per pupil costs and the mechanism with which the education system is paid for. Sibia stated that the Supervisory Unions or “middle management” seems to be being built up, but the student/parent/teacher relationship is not. Example: It should not cost the same to fund a classroom of 20 as it does a classroom of 5. The increase in education tax in Wilmington is due to a few factors: decline in student enrollment, Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), and per pupil spending. Streeter asked what happened with the legislation regarding the school district reimbursing the State for the cost of improvements paid for through educational grants over the years. Manwaring feels that there is a way around paying into the State and they hope to correct this requirement in the next legislative session.
5. Wayne Elliott and Jason Booth from A & E Engineering
The bid opening for the WWTP Refurbishment was held on July 23rd. Penta Corporation of Moultonborough, NH was the low bidder at \$2,039,000. Kingsbury came in at \$2,082,000 and WM Schultz came in at \$2,400,000. Mechanical and electrical subcontractors were few, but they are still looking so that they may be able to bring the project cost down. A project summary was handed out and reviewed (attached to the minutes). The breakdown shows that the project cost is \$432,000 more than originally estimated. Funding options for the extra expenses were discussed. Streeter asked the Board if they have the authority to award a bid

that is substantially larger than the approved bond vote. She suggested the Board seek a legal opinion. It was decided that Murphy would get a legal opinion then touch base with the Board about warning a special meeting to award the contract. Drozdowski asked how it would affect the bottom line if the sewer capital account was used, leaving it with a rather low balance? Lazelle responded that he was confident that the Town would have adequate funding for repairs and maintenance.

6. Fiscal Year 2015 Review

The General Fund, Highway Fund, and Sewer all ended up approximately on budget or with a slight surplus. The severity of the winter affected the salt budget immensely. Salt line item was over budget by \$27,000, sidewalk snow removal was over by \$27,500, and the Police Dept overtime was over by \$5,500 primarily due to shortage of officers. Legal fees were up approximately \$10,000 due to a lawsuit. Zoning fees more than doubled the projections, increasing the Town revenue. Also increasing revenue were tax revenue, Town Clerk recording fees, and small land sales. Several grants were also received during the Fiscal Year.

7. Façade Grant Applications

Gretchen Havreluk presented several Façade Grant applications to the Selectboard.

- a. **195 Rt 9 W –Vintage Motel:** for sign, stone wall, landscaping. The total project cost is \$6,430, they are requesting \$4,822.50. Chapman moved to approve Vintage Motel’s Façade application, White second; all in favor.
- b. **39 W Main St-Bauman Paint:** for staining two sides of barn. The total cost is \$4,100, they are requesting \$3,075. Fitzgerald moved to accept MJ Bauman’s application for \$3,075, White second; all in favor.
- c. **75 RT 100 N-Old Fat City:** for new sign. Gannon stated that there are no quotes for the work attached to the application. The applicant owns the business doing the work. Fitzgerald thinks that the applicant should submit bids by other companies before this application is voted on. The Board tabled the application until further quotes for work to be done are obtained.

8. 1% Local Option Tax Fund Request

Steve Adams addressed the Board, stating that the Fair has had a few difficult years. The electrical system had to be completely redone after Tropical Storm Irene which set them back. Work that had been donated was later rescinded and they had an unexpected \$8,000 bill to pay. State funding for VT Agricultural Fairs had dropped from \$8500 to \$2700 and next year there will be no funds from this source. It costs approximately \$56,000 to operate the Fair. This year they will offer an all-inclusive admission, which will hopefully draw in more families. The fireworks, in the past, had been used to try and draw more people into the Fair at night, and to keep those already there. There was not a big enough difference in attendance to justify spending the \$4,000 on fireworks so they have been cut from the event. Fitzgerald moved to approve Deerfield Valley Farmers Day Fair’s request for \$10,000 from the 1% Fund, White second; all in favor.

9. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

Reviewed mail and letters addressed to the Board

10. Other Business

None

11. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

White- Bi-Town would like an update on the Valley Trail. He climbed Haystack over the weekend, as a guide for the Blueberry Fest, and when they came back down the mountain, there were over 20 cars parked at the base of the mountain that weren't there when he went up. The trails are a huge draw to the area, and the Green Mountain Challenge is a huge part of that; Fitzgerald agreed.

Gannon-The bridge on the Hoot, Toot & Whistle Trail is completed. The boardwalk from the WWTP west is almost completed. Barry Reardon gave a donation for trail work.

Dunkin Donuts has been a topic around town and Gannon wanted it made known that Wilmington Works has no position and doesn't plan on taking a position as it is out of the downtown area. Fitzgerald commented that the Town has seen this same proposal before and nothing ever came of it, so we will have to wait and see.

Chapman reminded the Board of the joint School Board, Selectboard, OSEC meeting tomorrow night at the former high school.

12. Town Manager's Updates

Rt 9 paving will happen next year.

The telephone poles near the footbridge should be removed in the next few weeks.

Salt bids from that State were released-we are looking at a 19% increase if we cannot find an alternative source. Highway supervisor Bill Hunt and he are looking at other sources, and may join Dover to help reduce costs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 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