

**Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission**  
**April 17, 2013 at 6:00pm**  
**MINUTES**

**Selectboard Members Present:** Margaret Streeter, James Burke, Diane Chapman, Susan Haughwout and Jacob White

**Others Present:** Scott Murphy, Mary Towne, Chris Mays of Brattleboro Reformer, Jack Deming of Deerfield Valley News, Fred Duplessis, Chris Lavoy, Christine Richter, Tom Consolino

1. **Minutes:** Haughwout moved and Chapman seconded to approve minutes of April 3, 2013.  
Vote: All in favor.

2. **Visitors and Public Comments:** None

3. **Liquor and Tobacco Licenses:** Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to approve the following renewal applications for businesses: Deer Mountain, LLC. (Maple Leaf) 1<sup>st</sup> class restaurant; L & S Inc dba North Star Bowl, 1st class cabaret & tobacco; Jezebel's Restaurant and Catering, 1<sup>st</sup> class restaurant. Vote: All in favor.

The board discussed an Exemption Request from the Open Container Ordinance by the Chamber of Commerce for a 4th of July event at the Town Tennis Courts. Police Chief Joe Szarejko had sent a memo against the proposal. Discussion included:

- This is a short time period – only 4 hours. Does not compare with Fair that was 3 days and alcohol problems at fair were many years ago.
- Other events like Wine and Harvest Festival have not been a problem (but that was not town property).
- Only 1 exit might create a fire hazard.
- If controlled, it might be acceptable, but need to be sure alcohol is not brought onto the field.

Board tabled the request until their next meeting and will invite Adam Grinold, Police Chief Joe Szarejko, and Fire Chief Ken March to attend.

4. **Action Items:**

- Set up date for Select Board to meet with the Town Manager to discuss long and short term goals. To discuss at a later time.

5. **Audit:** Fred Duplessis, CPA from Sullivan, Powers & Co., came in to review the Town's Audit. He gave an overview and answered questions. The audit went well and there are no unresolved problems. He suggested that the town consider having a cushion for a rainy day to be sure there is enough money in the general fund to cover expenses until taxes are received. The board thanked him for coming.

6. **Water District:** Chris Lavoy, Operator of the Wilmington Water District, came in to discuss the Water District's recently received Water Supply Options Evaluation Report and answer questions from the board. The report from SVE Associates of Brattleboro compared alternative water supply options. Lavoy said the ultraviolet light system is their current main option, but they are looking into a drilled well option also. The well would cost more up front but would save money over time. The bond vote for funding might be able to be put off for a while as their deadline for state compliance may be extended for 2 years. There are other projects including upgrading water mains and work at the reservoir. The board would like to meet with the Water District Commissioners to discuss whether

they are still considering a merger with the town. While Lavoy was here, White asked if the fire department could have permission to paint the fire hydrants and Lavoy had no objection. He said that if the hydrants are tested during fire practice, the fire department should notify him because some do not drain by themselves and are subject to freezing and breaking if not drained. The board thanked Lavoy for coming in.

7. **Tax Stabilization Draft:** Murphy gave the board a first draft of a possible Tax Stabilization Policy. He said it would not be used a great deal but would be an option along with other incentives to bring businesses to town. The voters would have to approve the policy at a town meeting. The draft laid out a plan of reduced evaluation over 5 years increasing to the full evaluation at year 6. The plan would be for both new construction and expansion of current businesses.

Discussion included:

- Burke: What about businesses that move into a building and renovate it but not expand it? Evaluation can't be reduced unless grieved by the owner. But if the evaluation is increased these criteria could be used to help.
- Haughwout: A commercial building that is vacant does not seem to her to be as valuable as a functioning business, but that is not how valuation is looked at. Tax stabilization would not help in this case. An owner would have to grieve to get the valuation lowered.
- Plan's requirements for businesses: Wages should be equal to or greater than the State's average wage. It would be nice if new businesses provide employees with paid vacations, high wages, and health insurance, but this is a resort area and many businesses can't afford to offer sick days and paid vacation. Making that a requirement would make the plan more difficult for people to take advantage of. Also should add that all taxes must be current.

Murphy will continue to work on the draft.

8. **Confirm Memorial Hall Fees for F/Y 2014:** The question needing clarification in the recently completed fee schedule was whether private events would be charged the \$100 per day fee for everyone including residents and taxpayers or just non-residents and non-taxpayers. After discussion the consensus was that use of the hall for private functions would be free for residents and taxpayers, while non-residents and non-taxpayers would pay the \$100 per day fee. Insurance, security deposit, and fuel charges will still apply.

*Memorial Hall Fee Schedule Effective July 1, 2013*

**Public Events With No Admission Fee:** No rental/usage charge for residents, taxpayers, and non-residents.

**Public Events Charging Admission Fee:** Rental/usage charge \$100 per day

**Private Functions:**

**Residents and Taxpayers:** No rental/usage charge

**Non-Residents:** Rental/usage charge \$100 per day

**Insurance, security deposit, and fuel charges still apply.**

9. **Correspondence to/from Selectboard:**

- Review Act 250 log: None
- Other correspondence Read and no action taken

10. **Other Business: Selectboard Members Comments and Other Action Items:**

- A. White: attended Selectboard Institute and found it very helpful; Wondered if fire department could use some space at old town garage for storage; gave update on trails and bridge across the river.

- B. Burke: town garage report – a few minor projects should be done by June.
- C. Haughwout: Planning Commission report – they elected Wendy Manners chair; CERT graduated 14 people; thanked town for \$2000 grant for the Moving Wall.
- D. Streeter: asked Selectboard members to review the URGENCY NOW grant application; Wilmington Works – Adam Grinold will represent the Chamber on the Board and John Gannon and Bob Fisher will be the Wilmington Fund VT representatives.

11. **Town Manager's Updates:**

- CDBG-DR Implementation Grant for Digitization: A grant writer has started work on this.
- Quail Hollow/Mtn Ponds Sale: The sale did go through.
- Hermitage Request Re: Airport Land: He and Streeter met with Jim Barnes and Barnes will make a complete package to present to the Selectboard.
- Town Recognition for Volunteers: The town will be doing a display to recognize volunteers and place it in the hall way by the meeting room. Names of volunteers will be able to be changed as needed.

Burke moved and Chapman seconded to adjourn. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne, Administrative Assistant

**Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:**

Margaret L. Streeter, Chair

James R. Burke, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout

Jacob White