

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
February 1, 2012 at 6:00 pm
At Twin Valley High School Library
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Margaret Streeter, Susan Haughwout, James Burke, and Diane Chapman
Joined part of the meeting by Phone: Thomas Consolino

Others Present: Mary Towne, Mike Eldred (*DV News*), Thomas Rounds, Christine Richter, Dennis Richter, Kelly Kahler, Andres Torizzo, Scott Murphy, Dan Kilmurray, Bruce Mullen, John Gannett, Jake White, Elizabeth McEwen, Lisa Sullivan, Skip Morrow, Adam Grinold, Felicity Ratte, and Phil Taylor.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Chair Meg Streeter.

1. **Minutes:** Chapman moved and burke seconded to approve Minutes of January 25, 2012. Vote: Four in favor & Consolino absent.
2. **Visitors and Public Comments:** None
3. **Action Items Review from Previous Meetings and Selectboard Member Comments:**
 - a. Burke said they would be doing a final walk-through of the garage tomorrow.
 - b. Streeter reported that Consolino is doing much better after a fall and getting physical therapy.
 - c. Streeter reminded the board that the preservation Trust of Vermont is having their annual conference here in June. There will be a meeting of 250 people at Memorial Hall. They are very interested in helping the town.

Consolino joined the meeting by telephone.

4. **Long Term Community Recovery:** Thom Rounds gave the Board two handouts and discussed the following:
 - a. **Recovery Partners Meeting:** This would be a meeting after the Recovery Plan is completed to act as a kick-off, inviting partners such as state and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry representatives. Local participants would include the LTCR steering committee, work group leaders, and project champions. This meeting would be a day-long session in which the town's story can be told – disaster, response, recovery – to people who can help make things happen. It would be held April 11 or 13.
 - b. **Vision Statement:** A draft vision statement was presented for discussion. “ Our Community enjoys a vibrant, growing, year-round and diversified economy built upon the foundations of limitless opportunity for all ages that also preserves a unique historic, cultural, and recreational heritage.”

The Board will further review the handouts at their next meeting.

5. Warning for Town Meeting:

- a. **Budget Committee suggestion to put additional funding into school user fees for Town:** Jake White spoke for the Budget Committee saying they felt additional money was warranted because of the fiber-optics, the cost of living increase, and use of the TVHS building for flood recovery headquarters resulting in school being postponed for a week. Discussion: There are no FEMA funds or insurance funds for use of the school. There is a negotiated settlement agreement from several years ago about what can be charged to school user fees. Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to raise the FY13 budget line item amount for user fees to \$200,000. Vote: 5 in favor
- b. **Treasurer Christine Richter said there was a mistake in the previously printed budget on the line item for salt in the highway budget.** Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to set the FY13 highway budget line item amount for salt at \$46,000. Vote: 5 in favor
- c. **Chapman moved and Burke seconded to approve the total FY13 budget amount of \$3,562,076.** Vote: 5 in favor

d. Possible article for 1% sales tax: The board discussed wording suggested by Attorney Jim Barlow. "Shall the Town assess a 1% local option tax on sales/meals and alcoholic beverages/rooms pursuant to 24 VSA 138?" They also discussed whether the vote should be a floor vote or Australian ballot. A sunset clause cannot be added legally. Also general agreement that it is critical that people know what the money would be used for. The intent of the article must be understood by the voters. Burke moved and Consolino seconded to add the article to the warning with wording suggested by Barlow. Vote: 4 in favor and Haughwout opposed (stating that she preferred an Australian ballot vote).

6. **"The Wilmington Fund"** - Daniel Kilmurray, John Gannett, and Bruce Mullen, Directors of the fund, came in to tell the board about the fund they have established. Kilmurray said they are working closely with the Historic Preservation Trust of Vermont and working under their 501c3 until the fund has received their own. They are working to help existing business owners or new business owners to operate in town. The fund will use grants or loans as needed to support businesses including sale or repair of real estate. They want to fill the empty spaces in the downtown area. There will be a formal process for applicants. The board thanked them and said it is a great service to the town. Many second-home owners have contributed. Haughwout said that we don't always realize how invested our second home community is in the town – many think of it as their home and we are grateful to have them. Applause from all.

Streeter recognized Felicity Ratte in the audience and 2 of her students from Marlboro College. She is teaching a Wilmington Disaster and Recovery Class and students are involved in the town's recovery process.

Consolino signed off from the telephone.

7. **Correspondence to/from Selectboard:** A letter was received informing the board that the town received a grant of \$2,000 for assessment of Town hall and Memorial hall.

8. Other Business:

- a. Town Meeting Warning: Haughwout moved and Chapman seconded to approve the Warning as drafted with the financial figures in articles 4 and 5 to be confirmed by the treasurer according to tonight's vote. Vote 4 in favor. Consolino absent.
- b. The board will hold a special meeting on Monday at 8:30 am at the Town Office to discuss Town Hall renovations.

9. Town Manager's/Assistant's Updates: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas P. Consolino, Chair

Margaret L. Streeter, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout

James R. Burke

