

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
January 25, 2012 at 6:00 pm
At Twin Valley High School Library
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Thomas Consolino, Margaret Streeter, Susan Haughwout, James Burke, and Diane Chapman

Others Present: Mary Towne, Mike Eldred (*DV News*), Bill Colvin, Thomas Rounds, Steve Wade, Jeremy White, Chuck Clerici, Christine Richter, Dennis Richter, Kelly Kahler, Felicity Ratte, [Andres Torizzo](#), and Scott Murphy.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

1. **Minutes:** Burke moved and Haughwout seconded to approve minutes of January 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17, 2012. All in favor.
2. **Visitors and Public Comments:** None
3. **Action Items Review from Previous Meetings and Selectboard Member Comments:** Meg Streeter was welcomed back from vacation.
4. **Letter from Department of Forests Parks & Recreation:** The Board discussed the letter regarding Joan Rech Donation of Property to Molly Stark State Park. Haughwout said she had spoken to the department about whether the town needs to agree and they said it is smoother if the town agrees. The parcel would go off the tax role and go into the state PILOT program. This is a small parcel and the tax loss would not be a large amount. Streeter moved and Burke seconded to concur with Ms. Rech's desire to donate the parcel to the Department of Forests Parks and Recreation. Vote: All in favor.
5. **Discuss Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Progress:** Bill Colvin and Thom Rounds gave the board a meeting summary report on the LTCR kickoff meeting held January 17. They were impressed with the turnout and the energy of the participants. Working committees have been identified and have started meeting. A webpage has been set up on the town website to place information regarding all the committees and when and where they are meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and participate. A calendar of the meetings will be posted soon.
6. **Hazard Mitigation Projects Update:** Bill Colvin and Christine Richter gave an update on the projects. They listed projects that will be submitted to the program. Several of the projects the town had sent letters of intent for are not typically eligible for this program, but can be funded through the public assistance process, which is a larger percentage.

Colvin would also like to apply for grants for preliminary analysis and engineering studies for long term flood proofing of the Town Hall basement and first floor and also Memorial Hall. Cost for each building would be about \$3000 and would be offset by a \$1000 grant. Haughwout moved and Burke seconded to authorize Colvin to proceed with engineering studies for flood proofing Town Hall and Memorial Hall at a cost of up to \$3000 per building. Vote: All in favor. Colvin told the board that Felicity Ratte is willing to do a grant application for the town.

Mary Towne told the board that the Memorial Hall Board is working on an application for a grant from the Vermont Preservation Trust for study and planning for Memorial Hall. The grant would require a 50% match which could come from the Memorial Hall capital account. Ann Cousins of the Preservation Trust is coming down next week to meet with the board about the grant. The consensus of the board was to authorize the Memorial Hall Board to apply for a grant in the Town's name after discussion with Ann Cousins and approval of the Town Manager.

7. **Budget Review:** Christine Richter told the board that at the Budget Committee meeting, they discussed whether more money should be put into school user fees because the Town used the Twin Valley High School building for flood recovery headquarters and school had to be postponed for a week. The amount suggested was \$56,000. Discussion included:
 - \$56,000 is the exact amount that would keep the school out of the penalty box. This might raise flags at the state level. As the result of legal action when the user fees were instituted, there is an agreement on what can be included and the board is not sure this fits.
 - The town has cut their budget to the bone to cut the town tax by 4 cents, including no pay raises for employees. School employees get a 3.7% raise and the school budget tax will be up by 5 cents.
 - No decision was made. The board will take it under consideration at their next meeting.
8. **Consider Adoption of a Revised Credit Card Resolution:** Christine Richter told the board that because of purchases required by the flood, the credit card limit needs to be increased. Streeter moved and Chapman seconded to adopt the resolution authorizing the credit card limit to be raised to \$30,000. Vote: 4 in favor and Haughwout recused.
9. **Report on New Town Garage:** Chuck Clerici, Chair of Garage Committee, told the board that we are very close to taking ownership of the building. It is 2 weeks past the contract deadline, but the flood caused delays. He listed a few items remaining to be completed by subcontractors but said by the end of next week it should be substantially complete. He praised Steve Ingram for a job well done and also Merrill Mundell for a great job guiding the project through permitting.

Clerici said it was not in the contract, but the committee recommends installing a back-up generator so the Garage would have power in an emergency such as occurred with Irene. He has gotten a price of about \$20,000. There will be about that much left in the contingency fund. He asked if the board would like him to get other prices. Streeter said it was not an unforeseen item as the board had decided once to leave it out of the contract and she would rather not spend the contingency money. It would be possible to put it on the town meeting warning as a separate article. No decision was made. The board will consult with the town manager and road supervisor about the need for a special article.
10. **Inquiry from Geoffrey Goll, P.E. regarding the impact of the proposed Deerfield Wind project on headwater streams and potential exacerbation of flooding:** The board has been asked to support an effort being made to oppose the wind project. The project has received a federal permit, but there are several state permits that are not yet granted. In 2007 a majority of the Selectboard opposed the project and the town voted to spend up to \$40,000 to oppose it. The money was spent, but did not stop the permit. Andres Torizzo of Watershed Consulting Associates of Waitsfield, VT was present and explained that he was hired to look at water issues including flooding which would affect Wilmington. The board will have him back at their February 15 meeting to do a presentation.
11. **Discuss Draft Warning for Town Meeting including possible 1% sales tax article:** The Board discussed the draft warning and wording of a proposed special article about a 1% sales tax.

Discussion was mainly about whether to include a sunset provision. The board will consider again and adopt the warning at their Feb. 1st meeting.

12. **Approval of Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage:** Towne told the board that since no roads were added or thrown up this year, the mileage is the same as last year. Chapman moved and Burke seconded to approve the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage. Vote: All in favor.

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

a. Act 250 Log: Reviewed and no action taken

b. Other correspondence: None

14. **Other Business:** None

15. **Town Manager's/Assistant's Updates:** None

16. **Executive Session:** Haughwout moved and Streeter seconded to go into executive session for employment of a public officer. All in favor and the board entered executive session at 8:25pm. They came out of executive session at 8:40pm.

Chapman moved and Burke seconded to hire Scott Murphy as Town Manager, subject to a satisfactory background check. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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