Wilmington Select Board/Sewer Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2013

Present: Meg Streeter, Diane Chapman, Jim Burke, Jake White, Scott Murphy, Jessica DeFrancesco

Others Present: Nicki Steel, Tom Consolino, Doug Wheeler, John Gannon, Lisa Sullivan, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sheila Osler, Claudette Hollenbeck

1. Burke moved to approve the minutes from November 20, 2013. Chapman second. All in favor.
2. Visitors and Public Comments- Nicki Steel wanted to verify that the Board received her letter she sent out after the November 20th meeting. Steel inquired if there was a plan on how to correct the errors in the ordinance. Streeter replied-a few of the Select Board member thought it should go back to the Planning Commission for analysis. They are waiting to see if it becomes law as of December 12th before they initiate anything. Steel urged that if it becomes law, that the Board moves quickly to correct the errors and typos.
3. Liquor License- Pizza Palooza, LLC is opening at the former Apres Vous on S Main St and is applying for a 1st class liquor license. Chief of Police had no objections to the license. Chapman moved to approve the application for the license, Burke second. All in favor.
4. Action Items-Frank Sprague has handed in his resignation from the DRB. Streeter moved to accept the resignation with regret. Burke second. All in favor.
5. Town Nurse, Jennifer Fitzgerald discussed the services she has provided the citizens over the years. She is paid to be on-call for 15 hours a week. She stated that between the home visits and the phone calls it ends up being far more than 15 hours. The report she hands in only shows the face-to-face visits, it does not show all the phone calls. Claudette Hollenbeck stated that she can’t understand why the town wants to cut the Town Nurse position, or reduce it. Claudette stated the Jennifer knows everyone and has relationships with a lot of people in town. Burke inquired where the fees go that she collects. Fitzgerald stated that they go to the Town.
6. Wilmington Works Budget-John Gannon reviewed the accomplishments of Wilmington Works. They have an e-newsletter, website, and a Facebook page.

They have been working with the town for the downtown lighting and the snowmen that are up. Lisa Sullivan spoke about fundraising and how are hoping to raise a good portion of their budget through fundraising. Asking for a $25k operating grant from the town which will be matched by donations from the Wilmington Fund. Sullivan explained that they have a lot of ideas, but felt they are not necessarily coming together, which is where they feel an outside consultant would be necessary. Streeter commented that the cost is worry-some, as the town isn’t spending that much money on an Economic Development position. Sullivan explained that they do not know how long they will need the consultant; maybe one year, maybe two, they just don’t know at this point. Wheeler suggested that the focus not just be on downtown, as there are many businesses outside of the downtown area that could use some help as well. Sullivan stated that by definition it is “Downtown Designation” but they are certainly willing to help and listen to other businesses. Havreluk commented that as the Economic Development Coordinator, she has plans to help the businesses beyond the downtown area.

1. F/Y 15 Budget Discussions-further budget discussions.

* Social service organizations are going to be level funded. SEVEDs was pulled out with the thought that it would be paid out by the Local Option Tax Fund. Streeter commented that the surplus is the taxpayers money, so it should go back to them. Wheeler agreed stating that you can’t depend on the state side, as they will be the ones to screw up the budget. Murphy stated that they had two tax sales and they were fiscally conservative in FY13, which led to the surplus. Consolino asked if the Social Service Organizations could get their increase requests through the 1%. Streeter responded that they left everyone where they were, but the three organizations that asked for increases could propose it through the 1%.
* Town Nurse-Murphy stated that, in order to reduce the budget, he is trying to slowly scale her down. Chapman suggested leaving the position as is for now. The taxpayers like her and want her here. Consolino stated that he feels with the surplus that the town has right now, it would be asking for trouble come town meeting if they propose to scale down the nurse. Consolino asked when the nurse retires, can the position be re-drafted? Murphy stated that yes the Board can re-draft the position.
* Discussed article for town meeting. Consolino inquired about allowing electronic copies of the town report. Murphy stated the report will be available both ways, but it will cut costs if we don’t have to print as many copies. Last year we had a lot of reports that got returned, unwanted.

1. Correspondence- Looked through the Act 250 log and mail. Streeter asked if there has been any word regarding the RT 100S closure next summer. Murphy replied that they won’t hear anything until the bid is closed, but they did accept our request for both weekends of the Blueberry Festival.
2. Other Business-

* Streeter stated the Bi-Town meets tomorrow and she will bring up the packets mentioned at the last meeting.
* Burke commented that the library patchwork is just about done and it looks good.

1. Town Manger Updates-

* New Business openings-the town has some good business prospects coming into downtown. One is in the final sale stages.
* Went to an award ceremony at Brattleboro Town Hall for the CDBG Fund where the Governor was present , and accepted a grant award for $271,000.

1. Possible items for Next Meeting-

* Streeter asked if the state representatives were coming. Murphy will double check but last he heard they were coming.
* We will know if the zoning changes have passed, and we can possibly start sketching out changes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco

Administrative Assistant

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Meg Streeter, Chair Jim Burke Jake White

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Diane Chapman Susie Haughwout