

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission

September 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Wilmington Town Meeting Room

Selectboard Members Present: Tom Consolino, Margaret Streeter, Diane Chapman, Susan Haughwout, Jim Burke

Others Present: Scott Murphy, Dawn Baxter, Mike Eldred, Adam Grinold, Jim Barnes, Phil Taylor, Dennis Richter, Steve Goldfarb, Heidi Joyce

Consolino called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

- 1. Minutes:** Streeter moved and Chapman seconded to approve the minutes of August 15, 2012. Vote: Three in favor, with Haughwout and Burke abstaining due to their absence at the meeting.
- 2. Visitors and Public Comments:** Phil Taylor from the WSSU School Board asked the Board to consider helping to fund the hiring of a grant writer to pursue the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and also assist with the lobbying effort in conjunction with Dover. The Board advised Taylor to submit information to Town Manager and that this item will be put on agenda to be discussed at next Selectboard meeting.
- 3. Liquor Licenses:** Application for Open Container Permit and Application for Special Event Permit – Jim’s Bistro at the Roadhouse for the Vermont Life Wine and Harvest Festival at the following locations: Bartleby’s Books, Gallery Wright, and Pickwell’s Barn on September 21, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Streeter moved to approve liquor licenses as presented. Burke seconded. Vote: all in favor
- 4. Action Items:** Streeter moved to authorize Town Manager Scott Murphy to represent the Town as a voting delegate at the VLCT Annual Business Meeting. Chapman Seconded. Vote: All in favor. Chapman moved to nominate Town Health Officer Alice Herrick for re-appointment. Streeter seconded. Vote: All in favor. The Board then signed the legal notice for the sale of the Haystack Mountain Ponds and Quail Hollow Town owned lands.
- 5. Interview Alice Greenspan for Memorial Hall Board Appointment:** Ms. Greenspan was not present at this time, so this item was passed over and will be on the agenda for the next Selectboard Meeting.
- 6. Heidi Joyce, Senior Health Consultant from VLCT:** Ms. Joyce thanked the Board for their support and participation of the VLCT Wellness Program. She spoke briefly about the programs and clinics that are offered to Town employees and their families. The Board thanked Ms. Joyce for conducting today’s Health Screening Clinic and for staying afterwards in order to address them.

- 7. Jim Barnes, owner of Haystack/Hermitage:** Mr. Barnes came forward and spoke to the Board about the economic value of having a commercially viable airport in the Deerfield Valley. He then distributed a handout detailing the current condition of the airport, the benefits of expansion, and the effect that an airport would have on the Town. Streeter inquired about alternate uses of airport property for possible trails. Barnes indicated that he would be in favor of trail access. He believes that it would take 3-4 months for permitting and that work on airport may be able to begin in the spring. The Board advised that this item will be put on the agenda for further discussion at next Selectboard meeting. In the meantime, Murphy will work with Town Listers and Town attorney to attempt to uncover which properties owned by the town would be involved.
- 8. Discuss Funding of Educational Lobbyists in Conjunction with Dover:** *The Town of Dover has asked Wilmington to co-fund the cost of hiring an educational lobbyist firm (KSE Partners) to promote educational opportunities, as had been done last year.* Haughwout would like for the Board would consider splitting the costs of hiring KSE Partners with Dover. Burke agrees and feels that at this time, there is no oversight and would like to know how educational monies are being spent at the State level. Streeter and Chapman both agree that Wilmington should contribute, however, since there are already several expenses that have not been budgeted for, that the amount of the contribution should be less than half. Phil Taylor from the WSSU School Board said that the critical difference is that now there is a lobbying firm that is behind this and that the committee will advocate for a system of measuring educational spending per pupil and what the affects are on tax payers. Streeter made a motion to fund current year educational lobbyists in conjunction with Dover at \$5,000. Chapman seconded. Vote: all in favor
- 9. Memorial Hall Fee Schedule:** Murphy distributed the simplified Memorial Hall Fee Schedule for the Board to review. Streeter asked how much revenue the Hall has taken in and Murphy indicated that it was a relatively low amount. Burke asked if the \$50.00 fuel charge was the actual cost of heating the building in the winter for a day. Murphy answered that he believes the actual cost is higher. Haughwout suggested that the daily rate to rent the hall be modified to include Wilmington tax payers in addition to residents. She also suggested that in order to attract more business, that the rental fee be dropped until the end of the fiscal year. The renters would still pay the fuel charge and the refundable deposit. Consolino stated his concern that this fee structure is overly simplified and that will create more problems than it solves. Murphy explained that the Memorial Hall Board is looking to the Selectboard for guidance in this matter. Haughwout moved to approve the Memorial Hall Fee Schedule with no fee until the end of the current fiscal year and the addition of "Wilmington Resident/Tax Payer". Burke Seconded. She then amended the motion to also include the addition of "Advertising fees for events are the responsibility of those promoting the event". Burke Seconded. A discussion followed about whether or not the Memorial Hall Board would still pay for advertising for their sponsored events, after which, Haughwout made a motion to withdraw "Advertising fees for events are the responsibility of those promoting the event". Burke again seconded. Vote: Four in favor of approving the new Memorial Hall Fee Schedule, with Consolino opposed.

- 10. Correspondence:** The Board reviewed the Act 250 Log and other correspondence
- 11. Other Business:** The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Tom Consolino from the Beautification Committee; Burke said that there are a few small issues that need to be addressed at the new town garage. Murphy told him that the contractor will come tomorrow to address the issues. Haughwout thanked Murphy for contacting the contractor to have him complete the punch list for Town Hall and thanked the contractor for quality work. Haughwout brought to the Board's attention that there has been a reduction of parking spaces in front of some businesses on West Main Street. Murphy will contact District One, who is responsible for curb painting to make inquiries. Consolino has been in contact with six out of twelve Vermont towns that have the 1% option tax to determine the process they use. He will have a full report for the Board at the next meeting.
- 12. Town Manager Updates:** Murphy updated the Board on the status of the Castle Hill Bridge. The project is completed. It looks good and was open for Labor Day weekend. The final cost is \$111,000.000. More deterioration than expected was found making the use of additional concrete and forms necessary. This drove the cost up. Paving of the bridge will begin as soon as weather permits, hopefully before the weekend. An application has been submitted for the 2013 Park and Ride Grant. This grant for approximately \$41,000.00 would be for a carpooling area located in the municipal lot across from the Library. It could cover the costs of repaving and restriping, additional lighting, signage and tree planting. Murphy noted that the tax sale is on Friday, September 7th and that a Selectboard Representative is needed to purchase properties on behalf of the Town. Haughwout volunteered to attend. The bids for the Haynes Road Bridge project were opened today. Three bids were received and they are currently being reviewed by the engineer. The low bid was approximately \$420,000.000 and the FEMA award was for \$464,000. Upon recommendation by the engineer, a contract will be sent to the winning bidder stipulating that work will be completed by winter. October first is the State's deadline for completion of work in the river. Murphy will send the Board information to consider for future discussion after he attends the CDBG meeting. He explained that these grants represent a one- time opportunity and that funds are earmarked for Windham County. He asked that the Board consider ideas for projects that these funds might be used for and send them to him. Phil Taylor asked to what extent is the Board's interest in a community center in the vacated high school for municipal use. Haughwout noted that once the high school is vacated, there will no longer be a place to hold municipal elections. Although it is not included on the list of Long Term Recovery projects, Streeter opined that having the Town Offices, and emergency shelter, etc. located in the former high school might be a good idea for future discussions. Adam Grinold said that he encourages consideration for hiring a grant writer to pursue grants that are available.

13. Executive Session to Discuss Contract: Streeter motioned that the Board go into executive session to include the Town Manager in order to discuss a real estate contract. Burke seconded. Vote: All in favor. The Board entered into executive session at 7:45 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m. with no action taken. There being no further business, Streeter moved to adjourn meeting and Haughwout seconded. Vote: All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Baxter, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas P. Consolino, Chair

Margaret L. Streeter, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout

James Burke