

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2020

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Gretchen Havreluk, Meg Staloff, Christine Richter, Mike Eldred, Meg Streeter, Chuck Clerici, Charlie Foster, Jessica Lee Smith, Paul Milmed, Eric Silverstein

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - A first and third class renewal for The Maple Leaf Tavern under # 8.
2. Approve Minutes of June 2 and 5, 2020
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of June 2, 2020, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of June 5, 2020, Fisher second; 3-0, Rice abstained.
3. Financial Overview
 - Tax payments are still coming in. There is about \$500,000 in delinquencies, last year we had \$293,000. A lot of this would have been collected through the tax sale process, but we didn't have a sale this year. The general fund is close to breaking even, if we don't pay out the school user fees. If we pay them, we are more likely to end up in a deficit. Spending has been essential over the last couple of months. It is believed that the school will be ending with a surplus this year. Highway is in a good position; salt, sand and overtime weren't used up due to the mild winter, the trucks required less maintenance, they had one less employee for several months. They will probably have a surplus. Wastewater will be close to breaking even. Tax sale revenues were lost this year, though some payments are still coming in. We did receive our May 1% payment from the state. Our balance is \$276,000 after encumbrances. There is nothing encumbered for events this upcoming fiscal year.
 - Rice moved to retain the \$200,000 school user fees, Gannon second; all in favor.
4. Public Safety Facility Update
 - Chuck Clerici gave an update on the public safety facility and the geothermal heating and cooling. Geothermal extracts heat out of the ground. There was a \$20,500 test well to determine if geothermal would be an option. Geothermal vs conventional boiling system= geothermal would cost about \$9,000 more to run per year; a second opinion came back as a break-even cost. There is no saving to run the geothermal; purchasing the system does cost more.
5. Green Mountain Beach
 - Meg Streeter is asking the Selectboard to open Green Mtn Beach now that it is safer to gather outdoors. Meg Staloff has been receiving a lot of phone calls asking about the beaches. Porta-potties would be a larger responsibility if they are put out. Maintaining social distancing, and keeping at the 25 people in a group is difficult in the small area; 50 people would be a better threshold. Limiting parking could help control numbers. The Board is not comfortable opening at this time, but it will be re-addressed again. Keeping it closed for the entire summer is not the Selectboard's intention. The beach is an asset and they want to open, when it can be done safely.

6. Route 9 Signage

- The Bi-Town Committee has been working on some signage for a couple of years now. GPS is sending cars down back roads, causing them to get stuck in mud and on icy roads. Marlboro has signed their resolution and it is on Dover's agenda tonight. Fitzgerald moved that the Town of Wilmington support signage on Route 9 and do so by signing a resolution, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Deerfield Valley Resiliency Team Update

- Meg Staloff and Gretchen Havreluk gave an update on upcoming Sector Webinars and business resiliency. There have been some webinars for businesses the last month, and there are two more scheduled. These have been a great resource for the local businesses.

Rice moved to enter into liquor commission at 7:16 pm, Fisher second; all in favor.

8. Liquor Licenses

- Rice moved to approve a First and Third Class and Outside Consumption Renewal for WI Foster LLC dba The Wilmington Inn at 41 West Main St, Jezebels Restaurant & Catering LLC dba Jezebels Eatery at 26 West Main St, and Southern Vermont White House Inn LLC dba Southern Vermont White House at 178 Route 9 East; an Outside Consumption for LaCasita at 14 South Main St; and a First and Third Class Renewal for The Maple Leaf Tavern LLC at 3 North Main St, Fisher second; all in favor.

Out of liquor commission at 7:17 pm

9. Other Business

10. Select Board Members Comments

11. Town Manager's Updates

- Town offices are still closed, except by appt. There is a sign-in, masks necessary, encouraging work-from-home.
- NBF is back to work on the design of the public safety building.
- Highway is working on Lake Raponda; it should be open for the weekend.
- Wilmington Water District acquisition is still under review.
- River Bank Park has some work to be done on the walkway.
- Hermitage has 3 full time employees right now; it will run lean for now.

12. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the employment contract would put the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:28 pm, to include the town manager, to discuss a consultant contract, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 7:36pm

Fitzgerald moved to approve the contract for Gretchen Havreluk for one year, authorizing the town manager to sign, Gannon second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher
