

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
February 15, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, Susan Haughwout, Vince Rice, John Gannon arrived at approximately 7 pm

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Gretchen Havreluk, Nicki Steel, Bill Adams, James Burke, Dennis Richter, Sarah Fisher, Jake White, Monique White, Leonard Chapman, Diane Chapman, Anna Drozdowski, John Lazelle, Merrill Mundell, Mike Eldred–Deerfield Valley News, Chris Mays–Brattleboro Reformer

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda

2. Approve minutes from February 1, 2017

Rice moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2017, Haughwout second; all in favor.

3. Action Items

Set date of March 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm for the Town's Informational Meeting.

Haughwout moved to approve the amended Fire Agreement with Searsburg for fire and emergency services coverage, Rice second; all in favor. The Searsburg Selectboard has authorized the changes made to the amended version.

Fitzgerald moved to go into Liquor Commission, Haughwout second; all in favor.

4. Liquor License Renewals

Haughwout moved to approve a 2nd class liquor license renewal for Ride Aid of Vermont dba Rite Aid # 2481, located at 107 East Main St, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission

5. 7. Review and Possibly Approve the Proposed Amended Bi–Town Charge

The Selectboard reviewed a proposed change to the Bi–Town Charge, as proposed by the Bi–Town Committee. Gretchen Havreluk discussed the updates that had been made, including the number of members and the ability to make a quorum. Haughwout moved to approve the charge but to include a language change involving the quorum, Rice second; all in favor.

6. 8. Open Meeting Law Review

The Selectboard to possibly discuss the Open Meeting law requirements as requested by Tom Consolino. Fitzgerald suggested that this be tabled until Consolino could be present.

Meeting recessed at approximately 6:35 pm; resumed at approximately 6:50 pm

7. 9. Net Metering Solar Contract with Encore

Mundell discussed a net metering program which would be established at the former landfill site of the Windham Solid Waste Management District. Wilmington would join other towns and school districts in this contract. As part of this program, the municipality power use would be discounted through Green Mountain Power through New Metering credits. Projected savings the first year would be near \$10,000. Fitzgerald moved to approve a contract with Encore to join other member towns in a net metering program to be established at the former landfill site at WSWMD in Brattleboro, Rice second; all in favor.

Mundell updated the Board on the proposed recycling program that he is working on creating, which would include leasing the current MRF. This opportunity would be available to all Windham Solid Waste Management District members who want to join in.

Gannon arrived

8. 6. Personnel Policy – Haughwout recused

Gannon moved to approve the Wilmington Personnel Policy as amended at last meeting, Rice second; all in favor.

9. 5. Selectboard Candidates

Susan Haughwout has been on the Board 9 years. She felt compelled to offer to stay on, given the challenges in front of the Board. She has been through the Town Manager search process twice. Haughwout is willing to continue to work on the capital projects ideas that she had laid out late last year. Priorities–filling management, capital issues/ incomplete processes like the 1% Local Option Tax, Old High School, Fire Department recruitment.

Bill Adams had been asked by some townspeople to consider the appointment to the Selectboard. Adams has been a part of this town his whole life. Priorities–Act 60, tax structure.

Sarah Fisher has always been interested in town and national politics. Now that her kids are older, she feels she can devote more time to this. Priorities–filling management, old high school, continue economic development.

James Burke was a member for 6 years. He sees a rough transitional time coming and long range things that need a lot of work. Burke has been through two Town Manager searches and it is a difficult process. Priorities–Old high school building, doesn't want to see the building end up the Town's; budget, taxes are always going up; well paying jobs with benefits.

10. Other Business, Selectboard Comments

Gannon along with Rep. Sibilia, met with AOT regarding Route 9 W conditions. The chain-up process is working well. Gannon would like Wilmington Police to participate in ticketing trucks that do not chain-up.

Haughwout–mentioned John Reagan's passing and what a great person he was and all the great things he did in this town.

11. Town Manager Update:

Honora Allocation Permit update– allocation on hold until August 1st. Hopefully the rest of her permits are in by then. She has paid half of her preliminary allocation fee, which would be reimbursable if the project does not go forward.

Look Rd Bridge Progress–still moving along. The first invoice was just over \$66,000 which leaves \$210,000 in the town bridge fund.

12. Possible Executive Session – Haughwout recused

Fitzgerlad moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:25 pm for the evaluation and discussion of the candidates interviewed in item #5, Gannon second; all in favor.

Came out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

13. Possible Appointment of a Public Officer

Gannon moved to appoint Sarah Fisher to 1 year remaining on a 3 year term, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 7:42 pm, Gannon second; all in favor.

Jessica DeFrancesco
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout
