

**Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission**  
**August 16, 2017**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice (6:30 pm), Sarah Fisher, Ann Manwaring

**Others Present:** Gretchen Havreluk, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine & Dennis Richter, Nicki Steel, Meg Streeter, Jim Barnes, Chris Mays, Mike Eldred, Heidi Taylor, Charles Staib, Merrill Mundell, Scott & Lynn Tucker, Kristin Mehalick, Topper Van Backer, Sarah Lang, Dennis Pike Sr, Arlene Palmiter, Frank Sprague, Diane & Lenny Chapman, Jacob White, Adam Grinold, Meg Staloff, John Lazelle, Lisa Sullivan, Jerry Osler, Scott Moore, Tom Consolino, Bob Grinold, Crista Gannon

Meeting Called to order at 5:59 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda

Fitzgerald added the approval of a contract for the Town Manager, Scott Tucker, who will be starting on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Fitzgerald moved to accept the contract for the Town Manager, Gannon second; all in favor

Streeter informed the Selectboard that OSEC has received 501C3 status and will be coming to the Board soon with a full update. The school will be signing a lease for use of the locker rooms and fields at the former high school.

Steel thanked Havreluk for all of her hard work these past few months.

2. Approve Minutes of August 2 and August 9, 2017

Gannon moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2017; Fitzgerald corrected item #5. It should read that the Selectboard indicated via consensus that the part-time officer could be hired. Gannon moved to approve the minutes as amended, Manwaring second; all in favor.

Gannon moved to approve the minutes of August 9, 2017, Fisher second; 3-0 Manwaring abstained.

3. 1% Request

- The Trails Committee, represented by Crista Gannon, is requesting \$4,000 from the 1% Local Option Tax Fund to help clear trails, purchase some additional signage, and chainsaw work. There is 18 miles of trail and it is difficult to keep up with all the mowing that needs to be done. \$3200 would be used for mowing, and the additional \$800 would be used for posts and signs. C Gannon is also requesting the Trails Committee be part of the regular budget going forward. Manwaring moved to approve \$4,000 to the Trails Committee from the 1% Local Option Tax Fund, Fisher second; all in favor.
- Deerfield Valley Rescue, represented by Heidi Taylor, is requesting \$30,000 for the purchase and renovations of a new location. DVR hasn't asked for funds from either Dover or Wilmington in the past. Right now, they lease the land from SVMC. The Hospital originally planned to use the area to expand their services which would utilize the current health center location and where the rescue barn currently sits, but have since altered their plan. DVR feels that they are quickly outgrowing their building and still need to find an alternate location. Dover Selectboard has committed \$30,000 and is happy to consider them part of the annual budget. Fitzgerald asked is \$30,000 was enough and suggested \$50,000. Gannon moved to approve \$50,000 to Deerfield Valley Rescue from the 1% Local Option Tax Fund, Fisher second; all in favor.

4. BDCC/SEVEDS

Kristin Mehalick gave the Selectboard an update on current programs and initiatives;

- Cooperative Internship Program- 8 paid interns were placed this summer, one in Wilmington at Wilmington Works.
- Fast Tracks to Success- over 100 students are participating
- Working on CEDS renewal which expires in 2019 with coordination from Bennington County

Sarah Lang updated the Board on the Southern Vermont Economy Project, Knowledge Bites seminars, and Wilmington Works Digital Media Boot camp. OSEC submitted a project to CEDS and it was ranked in the top 14.

\*Vince arrived at 6:30 pm

5. Hermitage Club

Jim Barnes gave an update to the Selectboard on the Hermitage Club status. Real estate sales and memberships are helping with their revenue. They are hoping to fast track building permits. Three out of four new positions are SoVT homeowners. The Club has moved to a Board of Directors form of government. They currently have 664 members, 550 units approved through Act 250, 175 employees year round and 550 employees at peak.

6. Homestead Late Filing Appeals

The Selectboard needs to appoint the BCA or the BOA as the Board that will hear Homestead Late Filing Fee Appeals. They haven't charged the penalty in the past so there was no Board appointed to hear appeals. Manwaring moved to appoint the Board of Abatement to hear Homestead Late Filing Fee Appeals, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into Liquor Commission at 6:54 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Liquor Commission

Gannon moved to approve a second class liquor license for Jasper Décor, LLC at 9 South Main St. Manwaring second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission at 6:55 pm

Gannon moved to enter into Sewer Commission at 6:55 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

8. Sewer Rate

The Selectboard discussed possibly amending the sewer rate that was set in February. The sewer budget was overspent due to an unbudgeted bond payment. The rate that was set in February was an 8.5% increase from the previous year. If the rate is amended to cover the shortfall it would be a 13% increase. Previously the Selectboard has discussed paying the bond payments out of the 1% Fund. Lazelle feels comfortable waiting until April or May to see where the budget is. The Board agreed to table it and leave the ECU rate as is; if extra funds are needed at the end of the year, the bond payment can be taken from the Capital Account or the 1% Fund.

9. Correspondence to/from Selectboard

10. Other Business

11. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items

Gannon thanked Havreduk, and the other Board members joined him, for her service and all that she was able to accomplish at Interim Town Manager. She has done a terrific job.

12. Interim Town Manager Updates

West Main St project is complete. The lights are a little bright, waiting to hear back from contractor as to whether or not they can be dimmed.

Bridge Ramp—one bid has come in, hoping to have a few more next week and this be on the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Lakewise Erosion project is done. The scope of work was larger than anticipated.

Fire Dept—The report should be ready by the next Selectboard meeting. The Fire Dept is working hard cleaning and getting everything organized. They were recently called to a tragic accident in Colrain, Ma and were second in command. Colrain, Halifax, Turners Falls, Greenfield and Whitingham were also at that call. They did a tremendous job.

There will be an Open Meeting Law and Public Records Act seminar on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm here at Town Hall, presented by Jim Barlow. All committee members should try to be in attendance.

Scot Moore, on behalf of himself and the Fire Dept, addressed Havreluk thanking her for all her help. He can't remember the last time the Fire Dept received this much attention.

Rice moved to adjourn at 7:10 pm, Fisher second; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica DeFrancesco  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

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Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

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John Gannon, Vice Chair

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Vince Rice, Clerk

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Sarah Fisher

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Ann Manwaring