

Wilmington Selectboard Minutes
November 13, 2018
Joint Meeting with Dover Selectboard

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

Dover Selectboard: Josh Cohen, Sarah Shippee, Vicki Capitani, Joseph Mahon, Daniel Baliotti

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Chief Murano, Office Hammond, Chief Johnson, Jeannette Eckert, Steve Naratko, Chris Mays, Michelle Mann, Jimmy Sprague, Lauren Harkawik, Sam Morris

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Fitzgerald-Wilmington Selectboard felt it was time to discuss unified policing. It is a lengthy process that could take years. Discussions happened many years ago, but didn't go far. Many Wilmington residents have approached and mentioned consolidation. There is quite a different culture between the two towns. There is assistance to guide the two towns in the process. Both towns would need to vote in favor of this. This could improve efficiencies and public safety. Not looking for an answer tonight; if it's no it's no. If a committee needs to be formed, then we do that.

Capitani-it shouldn't be limited to police; it should include all emergency services. Finding qualified people is difficult. Also, it shouldn't be limited to Wilmington and Dover. Wardsboro relies on State Police completely.

Gannon- Changes to dispatch are coming down the road sooner than later. Some counties are already consolidating. Right now, we get coverage from State Police but eventually we will need to pay for those services.

Fitzgerald-this could be turned down at a town meeting and it doesn't go any further.

Johnson-Dispatching could be changed in many ways; all town pay, towns using services pay based on call volume, pay by county. Wilmington PD actually dispatched for Dover during the day.

Tucker-A survey committee would be the first step. This is more a way to retain workforce than a cost savings.

Manwaring- Feels discussions between the Chiefs should happen before anything else goes forward, to see where each town is at and what is needed.

Shippee-So many aspects to this. If some sort of time frame isn't created it will be very easy for this to fall away.

Capitani- Not one resident or voter has come to us about consolidating departments. The towns are coming from different places. We have a well-maintained department. Unsure the people of Dover are ready for something like this. Dispatch may be an ok place to start, since changes are already coming.

Dover will talk to their townspeople, Wilmington talk to theirs.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica DeFrancesco
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Ann Manwaring