

**Merger of Wilmington Water District and Town of Wilmington
Selectboard Minutes
October 13, 2020**

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Tony Tribuno

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine Richter, Rachel Rubin, Chris Lavoy, Rob Marzelli, Joe Boyd, Jessica Lee Smith, Meg Streeter

Fitzgerald called the Selectboard hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Fitzgerald explained the rules for the hearing. There will be a second hearing on October 27th at 6 p.m. via zoom. Town and Water District voters will be able to vote on the merger by ballot either in-person on November 3rd or by mail. If the voters approve the merger, it will go to the Secretary of State, then on to the House and Senate (Vermont Legislature) for their vote of approval, and signed by the Governor.

Jessica Smith asked if this is something the town wanted or something the state is asking for. Tucker commented that this is the goal of both the Selectboard and the Water District Commissioners, and it has been quite a few years in the works.

The burden of Lavoy being the District's only employee has been tiring for him, and having support is important so the District doesn't just "dry up" one day.

It will run as a business enterprise. The money coming in from the users will support the water district, just like the wastewater (sewer) district.

Streeter asked about the financial picture of the Water District. They are in decent shape. They have finished the large upgrade project; two bonds are still outstanding with several years until they are due. The fees currently charged cover these bonds. They have been working on cleaning up the outstanding accounts. They ended last year with a surplus. Their capital account is pretty much depleted due to the large project they just completed. A goal is to build that back up.

Voters should be receiving ballots in the mail. If you are a registered voter in the Water District, you will receive two ballots: one as a voter in the Water District and one as a Town voter. You can mail the ballots back in, drop them off in the town clerk mail slot, or bring them to the polling location on November 3, 2020.

Fitzgerald closed the hearing at 6:15 pm

Rice moved to adjourn at 6:15 pm, Gannon second; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno