

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Matt Murano, Mike Eldred, Christine Richter, Therese Lounsbury, Diane Olanyk, Christy Betit, Dennis Richter, Adam Grinold, Allison Maynard, Meg Staloff, Lisa Sullivan, Cordelia, Garofalo, Diane Chapman

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of September 15 and 28, 2020 (5 minutes)
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020, Rice second; all in favor 3-0, Tribuno abstained
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2020, Rice second; all in favor 3-0 (Fisher dropped call)
3. Action Items
 - Fitzgerald moved to approve a Letter of Intent to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Program, Gannon second; all in favor
 - Tony Tribuno moved to approve the winter salt quote from American Rock Salt for \$64.00/ton, Rice second; all in favor.
4. Tax Rates
 - The Selectboard chose to keep the late filing fee for homestead declarations as is at 4%.
 - The anticipated town tax rate was .5910, the actual rate is .5809. Homestead went down to 2.1112, non-homestead went up to 1.8385. The CLA is only at 88% after reappraisal which is why the non-homestead rate went up. We've been going around and around with PV&R and it sounds like the calculation that the state uses probably makes more sense when a grand list goes up; the formula simply does not make sense when a grand list goes down like ours did. Is litigation possible? It is, but looking at Whitingham that has been going on for over two years, and it hasn't gone anywhere yet. What else can be done? Can we wait to set the rate? We can't send tax bills without setting the rate. Fisher would like someone to come speak to the board and explain their formula and how they've never dealt with a shrinking grand list. We can consult with the town attorney about possible options going forward. Gannon moved set the town tax rate at 0.5809 for tax year 2020 and set the due dates as first payment due November 13, 2020 and second payment due February 26, 2021, Rice second; all in favor.
5. Traffic Ordinance
 - The Selectboard reviewed the traffic study submitted by Chief Murano. There are some safety issues on Fairview Ave due to increased traffic. The Chief's recommendation is to reduce the speed to 25 m.p.h. This would protect vehicle traffic, foot traffic, bicycles, etc. This reduced speed also makes it easier to pull in and out of driveways. Modified parking signs would also help. A centerline has already been put in place. A possible trail access has been discussed. Widening the dirt portion of the road and paving it was suggested.
 - Rice moved to approve the amended traffic ordinance, Tribuno second; all in favor.

6. BDCC

- The BDCC gave an update on their programs. The P3 program runs in numerous high schools. Over the summer they prepared a lot of virtual content to keep students interested and involved. Most kids (about 70%), 4 years out of high school, do not complete college. Most programs are virtual right now due to COVID. They have a program to try and match those on unemployment with other skill sets. They submitted their annual request of \$5648, no action was taken.

7. Wilmington Works

- Wilmington Works gave a presentation on their organization. In 2013 Wilmington Works was charged with managing the designated downtown. They provide training and do many fundraisers. They collaborate with OSEC, Economic Development and the Chamber to build capacity. One major benefit to Wilmington Works and a designated downtown is the tax credits. Since Irene in 2013, 13 projects have received tax credits. Butter Mountain Bakery and 802 Fitness were winners of their Make It On Main St competition in 2018. During the Eat, Sleep, Shop Local Summer event, \$85,000 was tracked in spending between Wilmington and Dover. Chapman went to Tennessee in March and when she came back it was like a ghost town. But Wilmington Works was right there, helping businesses and communicating when there were trainings to help. Garofalo had never felt so welcome. Wilmington Works kept her involved with grants and strolls as soon as her doors were open.
- The Selectboard appointed Tom Fitzgerald as representative to the Wilmington Works Board.

8. Other Business

9. Select Board Members Comments

- Rice would like to discuss a walking/biking path along Route 100.
- Governor signed legislation to allow towns to hold town meeting by Australian ballot. It has to be voted by December 31st

10. Town Manager's Updates

- The police chief did a great job on the Fairview Ave study
- There is a stabilization project on Rt 9W near Bennington that will be a 3-year project. It will close down for winter months. Traffic will not be rerouted.
- Some residents have commented on town hall being open for tax payments. We opened for specific hours for sewer payments and no one came in. Appointments will be made for those who need to pay in-person.
- Ballots for the water district have been put in the mail. There will be in-person voting as OSEC.
- DRB heard the public safety design last night. They want a site visit and continued the meeting to November 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

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