

Selectboard Meeting Minutes Monday, February 22, 2021

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Bob Fisher, Matt Murano, Sheldon Brassor, Christine Richter, Debby Kingsley, Scott Moore, Kathleen Nutter, Jack Widness, Joan Redin, Mike Eldred, John Lazelle, Linda Green, Diane Chapman, Carol DeBarba, Mike Tuller, Therese Lounsbury, Linda Brophy, Hope Etheridge, Nicki Steel, Adam Grinold. Gabriel Sistare, Bill Adams, Dave and Kathy Larsen, Lynne Cannon, Meg Streeter, Chuck Clerici, Chris Mays, Allison Maynard, Ilene Wax, Jessica Lee Smith, Carlotta Gladding, Julie Lineberger,

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

- Article 1: To elect all Town and Town School District Officers required by law and all articles as set forth below.
- Article 2: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,393,291 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2021 (7/1/21 to 6/30/2022)?
- The budget is up about 2%, less than a penny.
 - Carol DeBarba asked if the bond was included in the budget. The interest for year one is included in the budget, which is the majority of the increase.
 - Bill Adams– why are we paying so much in state education fund? The jump the past few years has to do with the increase in our grand list.
- Article 3: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,447,593 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2021 (7/1/21 to 6/30/2022)?
- No questions
- Article 4: Shall the Town vote to allocate the State per parcel payment estimated to be \$26,765 to the Reappraisal Reserve Fund?
- We have been moving this money for two years in anticipation of the next reappraisal, rather than to the listers office.
 - The state decided years ago to pay towns \$8/parcel every year to go towards reappraisals. Putting this fund into the reappraisal reserve is to help offset the cost of the next reappraisal.
 - Bill Adams– What is our COD? It is 10%, the CLA is 100%.
- Article 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$175,000 to fund the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund?
- Meg Streeter–is this the regular plan to reserve funds, not just a sum to spend? Yes, this is for the large equipment purchases.
- Article 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to fund the Bridge Capital Fund?
- Bill Adams–is there a large project? The budget is not up. We are just trying to build up the fund so we have it when we need to replace/repair a bridge.
- Article 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to fund the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund?
- Every year this account is funded for the purchase of trucks and large equipment.
 - Julie Lineberger–what are the upcoming needs that got this figure? Fire apparatus is going up, and being replaced at max life expectancy. A truck is coming up for replacement in

2022, which will be \$500–600,000. Turn out gear needs to be replaced every 10 years. The figure has been this amount for many years. Building up this amount over the course of a few years will cover the cost of a truck, plus replacement of equipment.

- Diane Chapman—what is the life of a fire truck? We had been replacing every 20 years, but have been stretching it to 25 years due to the cost.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to fund the Fire House Capital Fund?

- There is a balance of \$23,023; and it is for repairs and improvements to the fire house.
- Capital accounts are used to accumulate small amounts of money at a time, to pay for larger purchases later without having to pay for it out of a single budget year.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to fund the Memorial Hall Capital Fund?

- Flood proofing needs to be done.
- Chuck Clerici—How is the roof? The roof has been repaired and gets inspected. The chimneys have also been repaired.

Article 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund?

- No questions

Article 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to fund the Town Hall Capital Fund?

- We are in need of a complete paint job and light carpentry. We are hoping to replace the smaller and repair the larger windows.

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to fund the Police Equipment Capital Fund?

- This is used for larger equipment purchases, body cameras, portable radios, in-car cameras; which takes the burden off of the tax payers in a single year.

Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to fund the Transfer Station Capital Fund?

- This is used to fund improvements at the transfer station.
- Julie Lineberger—what improvements? A real bathroom is a possible project.

Article 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to fund the Public Lands and Fences Capital Fund?

- This is for improvements and repairs to Buzzy Park, the tennis court, and other areas. The tennis court is over \$100,000 to replace.

Article 15: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Wilmington in an amount not to exceed Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000) be issued for the purpose of making certain public safety improvements, namely, replacement of the current Public Safety Facilities for the Town Police and Fire Departments, with the construction of a new one, on Town owned lands, located at 40 Beaver Street, such improvements estimated to cost Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000)?

- We have bonds that will be retired in the next couple of years, eliminating much of our debt. FEMA is pushing to get services out of the flood zone, and both departments need more space. There will be another informational meeting with the public safety facility committee February 25th at 6 pm.
- Diane Chapman is in favor of this project and feels it is long overdue. Do we know how much this might increase taxes? On a home valued at \$200,000: in year one there would be about a \$20 increase in taxes; in year 2 about \$100; trickling down to \$78 over the course of the 20-year bond.

- Bill Adams–could a utility pay the loan?
- Gary DeBarba– are there a lot of delinquencies due to COVID? How will this impact this? Delinquencies are not much higher. This could partially be due to no tax sale last year. The dollar amount delinquent doesn't seem more than previous years.
- Meg Streeter–was using 1% funds discussed? If not, why not? It was not discussed because they wanted to save it for a reserve. If we needed to make an extra payment for some reason, it may be looked at. Initially, \$39,000 was used from 1% to fund the design feasibility as an important community development project.
- Jessica Lee Smith asked if there was some way so that it didn't fall back on the taxpayers? We don't want to raise taxes unnecessarily, but we have services that need to be kept up. The debt we are losing in the next couple of years will help with the burden.
- Nicki Steel–are both CC Haynes and the Fair buildings being destroyed? We are not certain of the fate of the buildings, but they will be removed from the property.
- The existing fire department building will be vacated need to be dealt with, should this vote pass.

Article 16: Shall the Town vote to collect taxes on August 27, 2021 and February 25, 2022?

- No questions

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 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