

## **Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021**

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

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Sheldon Brassor, Meg Staloff, Michele Carlson, Carolyn Palmer, Chrystal Holt, Scott Moore, Matt Murano, Dist. Ranger Martina Barnes, Bill Benneyan, Gretchen Havreluk, Amelia Nick, Elizabeth McEwen, Cheryl Rusin, Therese Lounsbury, Bill Spirka, Jack Widness, Jessica Lee Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of July 6, 2021
  - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021, Rice second; all in favor.
3. Action Item(s):
  - Volvo is the middle bid for a wheeled excavator. The other bids were lacking some of the features found in Volvo and the company had the most knowledgeable salesman, with available attachments we are able to rent. The warranty is 7-years with lifetime warranty on additional parts, while the other bids were 5-year warranties. It would be a lease to own at \$40,110 per year for 5 years. Gannon moved to approve the purchase of a Volvo excavator for the Highway Department from Tyler Equipment in the amount of \$184,141, Rice second; all in favor.
  - Fitzgerald moved to appoint Bill Benneyan to the Bi-Town Economic Development Committee, Tribuno second; all in favor.
  - Fitzgerald moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jason Staloff from the Board of Library Trustees, Rice second; all in favor.
  - Gannon moved to appoint Chrystal Holt to the Board of Library Trustees until Town Meeting March 2022, Tribuno second; all in favor.
  - Gannon moved to appoint Michele Carlson to the Planning Commission for the remainder of a 4-year term expiring April 2023, Rice second; all in favor.
  - District Ranger Martina Barnes from the US Forest Service introduced herself to the Selectboard - The US Forest Service falls under the USDA and actively manages forests for recreation, wildlife, habitat protection, timber harvesting and a host of other things. Wilmington has only 1654 acres of National Forest within her jurisdiction across 28 towns and 240,000 acres.
  - Tribuno moved to approve the South Main St closure for the Blueberry Block Party on August 6, 2021 from 3-8:30 pm, Rice second; all in favor.
4. Public Safety Budget
  - After talking with numerous vendors, identifying best pricing and quality products/services, the Chiefs have developed their budget for the Public Safety Facility project that is under construction. Ordering now will help ensure they receive the equipment and that the price does not increase. Some items will need to be integrated during the build. Dispatch is the biggest item right now. The vendor we currently use for maintenance and has the state bid, came in less than the other bid received. Rice moved to approve the budget plan for the Public Safety Building, Tribuno second; all in favor.

## 5. Police Grant

- This grant is to help fund community policing type projects. Chief Murano explained a void in mental health and substance abuse (misuse) services in Wilmington. This would help staff a person for mental health and substance abuse counseling. It would be a half-time position. HCRS supports this grant and has agreed to handle the match required by this grant for three-years. Chief is not asking for funding at this point, but wanted the Board to be aware that funding may be needed in the future. This could be a great thing for our Economic Development; bringing someone who is unemployed to the employed side. The grant position would be an employee of HCRS and Chief would have a voice in the hiring process. This position will work well with our current social worker. Jessica Lee Smith stated she had a very positive impact when interacting with our social worker. Gannon moved to approve funding and support of a policing grant for behavioral health responses, Rice second; all in favor.

## 6. Voices Of Hope

- Voices of Hope started 3-years ago, mostly funded by the Rotary. They were gifted a grant to jump into ideas for programming. Ways to seek recovery are posted in the Shaw's plaza at the previous location of the Tae Kwon Do studio. They are doing smaller programs at the elementary school summer camp, and some larger ones as well. Local businesses have been trained in Naloxone; 13 personal requests have been made. Communication since this endeavor began has been life changing for many. Their biggest push has been to bring the resources in so they are everywhere. The Good Samaritan Law is very unknown to many people. September is recovery month- researching ideas for this utilizing community resources like books clubs through the library and the book store. They have a website, are getting an Instagram account and will be printing a 12-week ad. The Firehouse would be a great location when it is available, so that there is a space for people to go to receive these particular resources.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into Liquor Commission at 7:23 pm, Tribuno second; all in favor.

## 7. Liquor Commission

- Gannon moved to approve the Request to Cater Permits for PipeDream LLC dba Anchor Seafood Restaurant and La Casita LLC and a Special Event Permit for Vermont Distillers Inc for the Blueberry Block Party on South Main St on August 6, 2021 from 4-8:30 pm;
- A Special Event Permit for White Mountain Distillery dba Stowe Cider for the Chamber Golf Tournament on July 26<sup>th</sup> at Haystack Golf Course; and
- A Special Event Permit for Snow Republic LLC for Wilmington Old Home Week on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Adams Farm, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission at 7:25 pm.

## 8. Other Business

## 9. Selectboard Members Comments

## 10. Town Manager's Updates

- Met LRA on July 11<sup>th</sup>; talked about the stream work, erosion control, how Lake Raponda Road seems to have risen over the years, and LRA seeking A1 status for the lake.
- Highway has completed paving for the year; line striping is delayed as vendors cannot find paint.
- VT Municipal Bond Bank closing documents need to be signed.

- Informational meeting tomorrow at the Woodford Selectboard meeting at 7 pm on the ledge stabilization.
- Two cases are in superior court that were appeals from BCA; one case is in PVR.

11. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the policing contract would put the town at a substantial disadvantage due to exposing the Selectboard strategy; Rice second; all in favor.
- The Selectboard to enter into executive session, to include the town manager and police chief, at 7:43 pm to discuss the town's terms of a policing contract with the Town of Whitingham, Tribuno second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:02 pm

- Gannon moved to approve the Whitingham Policing Contract for FY22, Tribuno second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

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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Tony Tribuno