

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes November 2, 2021

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Heidi Taylor, Terrie Dumaine, Meg Streeter, Christine Richter, Merrill Mundell, Michael Mannhaupt, Amelia Nick, Diane & Lenny Chapman, Therese Lounsbury, Jessica Lee Smith, Janet Sherman

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - DV Fiber will be moved to the November 16th meeting
2. Approve Minutes of October 19, 2021
 - Rice moved to approve the minutes of October 19, 2021, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Action Item(s):
 - Gannon moved to American Rock Salt's quote for rock salt for the 2021-22 season at \$77.00/ton delivered, Rice second; all in favor.
4. Windham Solid Waste
 - Merrill Mundell gave the Selectboard an update on the Windham Solid Waste District. The solar array is performing well; credits are at around \$50,000/quarter. The compost is turning out a high-quality compost. The site is maxed out and the upgrade is a \$500,000 expenditure. The district is working to keep costs at or below the need to increase assessments. As Wilmington's population has increased, the assessment will be increasing.
5. Social Services
 - Deerfield Valley Rescue; ended up \$280,000 short of their \$600,000 goal, so they now have a mortgage. Call amounts have fluctuated throughout the pandemic. There are 5 full-time employees, including a night shift. They didn't reach their budget in transport fees. A new ambulance had to be purchased which was about \$190,000. Subscriptions increased last year. Wilmington is about 38% of DVR's call volume. They have \$45,000 of uncollectible fees.
 - Senior Meals; wasn't available, will reschedule.
6. Financial Update
 - The Finance Officer gave an update on the current budget. Highway expenditures are at about 40%, including capital. Most regular line items are around 25%. Resurfacing has been maxed out because paving happens at the start of the fiscal year. Sewer revenue is at 51%. The expenditures on truck maintenance are a little high, but he's had to do some work on his truck which is a 2014. Water is at 20% for revenue. Expenditures are at 12%. Collected \$9 million of the \$16 million in taxes so far. Zoning fees, land sales, town clerk fees, transfer stations fees are all up from last year. Town Clerk is at 31% which is a little high, TM postage is high-envelopes and stamps bought at start of year and in large amounts, Fire is at 15%, Green Mountain Beach expenses are higher due to replacing a damaged handrail. VLCT is expecting insurance rates to decrease for 2022. Healthcare rates are also proposed to decrease next year. Transfer Station is at 34%; trash and recycling removal costs are up. County Court is paid for the year and came in under budget.

- BCBS Platinum is going down 5.5% for 2022, rather than increasing like we typically see. The initial deductible is increasing slightly, but out-of-pockets costs will remain the same. This would be a \$39,000 savings for the town. Gannon moved to approve the BCBS Platinum plan for 2022, Rice second; all in favor.

7. 1% Local Option Tax Fund Request

- OSEC is requesting \$100,000 for a new heating system. It is two very large boilers, and it doesn't always start automatically. The estimate includes removing the current boilers and some asbestos removal. The Board will revisit the request when OSEC has a more solid figure. John suggested asking other towns for support as more than Wilmington is benefitting from it.

8. Deerfield Valley Fiber

- Moved to November 16th meeting

9. Other Business

10. Selectboard Members Comments

- Gannon noticed a gravestone at the top of the stairs in the cemetery. And in bushes there are two square posts. A public discussion about the ARPA funds would be great.

11. Town Manager's Updates

- 9 South Main will be replacing a sewer pipe; the road will be closed for 3-4 days starting November 8th.
- Planning Commission has been working on a vacant building ordinance. The town attorney agrees that it should be a stand-alone ordinance; not a zoning ordinance.
- November 5th there is a meeting with Somerset Administrator
- Chief Murano had a meeting with Ray Hill residents. Speed data shows travelers using an acceptable speed; the amount of traffic has increased significantly.
- Efficiency Vermont has outlined some projects for the garage, town hall and police department with incentives; our cost will be about \$12,000 with energy savings starting at \$2400.
- Winter season sand will be relocated to Church St along the water building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 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

