

**Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

**Present:** Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher at 8:06 am **Absent:** Tony Tribuno

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Matt Murano, John Lazelle, Chris Lavoy, Debby Kingsley, Christine Richter, Sheldon Brassor, Mike Tuller, Therese Lounsbury, Scott Moore

Meeting called to order at 7:37 am

1. Visitors, Public Comment, Changes to agenda
2. FY23 Budget Discussion

Due to the current CPI, which was at 6% in November and increasing, the overall cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) proposed is 4.5%, police officers 12%, and dispatchers 8%. The Police Dept. request for pay increases is to try to bring them more in line with other police departments. Police Dept. employees performed a pay study and found that Wilmington is one of the lowest paid departments in the area, with some departments dropping their five lowest pay scales. This increase will help keep them competitive for recruiting and retention purposes. The Police budget reflects a possible hire for a part-time dispatcher to cover some high-volume times, holiday shifts, vacations, sick leave, etc.

Sewer Dept - ECU's are expected to go up, most expenditures are level funded.

Water Dept - legal fees and audit costs were moved to the general fund, just like the Sewer Dept. The creation of a Water Capital Fund will be on the town meeting warning.

General Fund- The budget is up \$447,000; \$385,000 of that is due to the new Public Safety Facility. The estimated tax rate is .6296, about \$0.03 increase. Town Clerk has three elections which increases some costs. Listers will hopefully be decreasing to three members. There is also an estimate for an appointed appraiser to work on transitioning away from elected officials. Listers budget is down mostly due to the town-wide reappraisal being complete. Police - skipping a year in buying a cruiser and supply is limited. With repairs being a challenge, keeping the extra car will keep the department from running short for on-call hours. For investigating digital evidence, outside agencies had been used. It is getting more difficult to get it done in a timely manner, so purchasing the software to do it in-house has become necessary. Working toward filling the detective position and this is something they would be utilizing, not the patrol officers. Fire Dept- expenditures are mostly level funded; no big changes. Public Safety Facility adds about \$80,000 to the overall budget. VMERS had an increase in the employer contributions. VLCT (insurance) rates are down slightly for calendar year 2022. Town nurse retired mid-year and is not being replaced. Social Services - SASH requested an increase to \$15,000, but is in the budget for \$10,000; VT Bar Foundation was a new request at \$600. Selectboard consensus is to leave SASH at \$10,000, and to approve the VT Bar Foundation request for \$600. Transfer Station - is up \$46,000 to account for the increase in hauling. Legal- reappraisal line decreased -\$35,000, since most state & court hearings are expected to be complete this fiscal year, and the audit line increased adding the Water Dept. Memorial Hall - largest increase is the janitorial costs due to new contractors. Rec Committee - counselor salaries increased the same as regular employees. The committee is asking for a few additions;

such as, volleyball and a backstop for a section of the tennis court. Beautification – a new flower contract is coming up. The expenses are currently split between general fund and 1% Fund. Tennis Courts- needs ongoing maintenance, resurfacing repairs. Town Hall - janitorial increase. Public Safety bond adds \$305,000; the Highway Garage and Look Road Bridge bonds are paid off this fiscal year. Capital - Public Lands and Fences fund increased to for rebuilding tennis courts down the road.

Highway Fund - expenditures increased due mainly to increases in supplies. Culverts have doubled in cost and a lack of grant funding is also causing an increase. A Highway Building Capital Fund is being proposed to cover building repairs that may need to be done as the building ages.

Revenues- penalties are not up as high. A tax sale was not held during FY-20 at the onset of the pandemic, and a tax sale was held in FY-21 causing an increase in penalties. Police fees and fines are up. Transfer Station fees increased, with more permits and more visitors over the past two years.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am

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