

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes January 18, 2022

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon (by phone), Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher, Tony Tribuno

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Deb Kingsley, Jerry Osler, Christine Richter, Ryan Todd, Matt Murano, Andrew Kirkman, Therese Lounsbury, Amelia Nick–DVN, Jessica Lee Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of January 4, 2022
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Action Items
 - Fisher moved to approve the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage, Rice second; all in favor.
4. Equalization Study
 - Every year the listers receive a list; this year the list had 364 sales. This is a 3–year comparison; 2018–2021. There were 205 sales between the spring of 2020 and spring of 2021. The district advisor reviewed the list and made some changes, and there are four properties the listers would like to have adjusted as well. Fisher moved to approve the Listers request to appeal the equalization study results on four properties, Fitzgerald second; all in favor.
5. Town Meeting
 - Tribuno moved to approve the Town Meeting Warning for March 1, 2022, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to approve going to Australian Ballot for the 2022 Town Meeting, Tribuno second; all in favor.
6. VSP PSAP Staffing Contingency Plan
 - The Police Chief discussed the VSP PSAP staffing and how it will affect the Wilmington Police Dept. Received notice that if VSP goes into crisis mode, they will only be staffing emergency dispatching services for Wilmington. This will put a lot more call screening to the duty–officer at night. Besides responding to local calls, officers may be contacting other agencies needed (i.e.: fire, mental health, etc). Chief is working on a plan to help mitigate some of these issues. Regional dispatch has been discussed, too.
 - Traffic stops and race data; Gannon commented about the increase in stops between 2019 and 2020 shown in a paper (written by Dr. Seguino, et. al., Did COVID–Induced Reductions in Vermont Traffic Stops Lower Racial Disparities?) presented to him in his legislative role on Gov Ops. Chief Murano cautioned calling the paper a study, as Gannon referred to it. The Chief’s discussion follows: Demographics by population needs to have a baseline; VT is probably the second whitest state, but is not a vacuum – 9000 vehicles is the average daily driver count along Route 9; About 70% of the traffic stops conducted in Wilmington are out–of–state vehicles; This literature implies there is a vacuum and possibly some bias about travelers; Wilmington officers undergo fair and impartial training every two–years; In 2019 – 1.3% of traffic stops were black drivers and in 2020 it went to 3%; The number of out–of–state

travelers is also increasing; Speeding, citizen complaints, and incidents sometimes dictates where officers go to perform highway safety/traffic stops.

7. Face Coverings in Town

- Tribuno moved to approve a 30-day extension to the resolution requiring masks be worn in all public buildings and town owned buildings, Rice second; all in favor.

8. Other Business/Correspondence

9. Selectboard Members Comments

- Rice commented on the great job highway did during the storm.

10. Town Manager's Updates

- Cannabis Control Commission; no guidance at the local level at this time, other than following the Liquor Control Commission rules, found in Title 7.
- AOT responded to our requests to extend the 25MPH on West Main St, and will conduct a speed study along Route 9 West.
- In deposition stage of the Josh Lane appeal in Superior Court.

11. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of a contract amendment and attorney/client communications would put the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter executive session at 7:29 pm, to include the Town Manager, for the purpose of discussing a contract amendment and to discuss attorney client communication pertaining to Superior Court tax appeal case Neuner v Town of Wilmington, Rice second; all in favor.
- Out of executive session at 7:53 pm.
- Tribuno moved to approve Neuner v. Town Stipulated Judgement Order, Rice seconded; all in favor.
- Gannon moved to approve Addendum to AIA Document A201-2017 General Conditions of the Contract for Construction in the amount of \$77,575.55, Tribuno seconded; all in favor. Addendum refers to BreadLoaf Construction.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 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