

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Matt Murano, Sheldon Brassor, Christine Richter, Debby Kingsley, Scott Moore, John and Rachel Lazelle, Mike Tuller, Therese Lounsbury, Nicki Steel, Adam Grinold, Kathy Larsen, Meg Streeter, Jessica Lee Smith, Bill Adams, Chris Lavoy, Bonnie Lorimer, Jerry Osler, Fred Houston, Eithne Eldred, Amelia Nick, Allison Maynard

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 \$2,679,221 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/2023)?

- No comments

Article 3: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,531,250 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2023 (7/1/22 to 6/30/2023)?

- Meg Streeter asked for update on big projects. There is a large culvert on East Dover Rd that needs replacement. The state has denied grant applications, so it will have to be replaced with town funds if denied again.

Article 4: Shall the Town vote to allocate the State per parcel payment estimated to be \$26,792 to the Reappraisal Reserve Fund?

- Is this a new account and what is it for? It is not a new account. It was voted on a few years ago to put this into a Capital Reserve to fund upcoming reappraisals.

Article 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$175,000 to fund the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund?

- No comments

Article 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to fund the Bridge Capital Fund?

- No comments

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to establish a Highway Building Capital Fund for the purpose of building maintenance, and raise and appropriate \$5,000 for such fund?

- This is a new account to help fund large repairs to the highway garage that should have been established when the building was built, but was not.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to fund the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund?

- There is a truck coming up for replacement. There is a committee working on it. Fall 2022 is the projected truck purchase date. This account also purchases turn-out gear for the firefighters.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to fund the Fire House Capital Fund?

- No projects planned, just basic maintenance right now. The future of the building is still unknown.

Article 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to fund the Memorial Hall Capital Fund?

- No comments

Article 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund?

- No comments

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

- Windows need to be replaced in the meeting room and in part of the offices. It is a very expensive project.

Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to fund the Police Equipment Capital Fund?

- Portable radios, cruiser radios, and other equipment is funded through this account.

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

- No comments

Article 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to fund the Public Lands and Fences Capital Fund?

- This account was created as a culmination of regrouping a handful of accounts into one, and renaming it. It funds repairs for all public properties like the playground, tennis courts, pergola, fencing, etc.

Article 16: Shall the Town vote to establish a Water Capital Fund for the purpose of maintaining water reservoirs, systems and equipment, and raise and appropriate revenue for such fund under the control and direction of the Selectboard, sitting as the Water Commission, to be funded by rate payers?

- This is a new account, as the town has taken ownership of the Water District. There is \$35,000 in the budget for a capital account, but felt it should be brought to the voters.

Article 17: Shall the Town vote that water charges will bear interest at a rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof, from the due date of such charges pursuant to 24 VSA 5151(c)?

- The interest rate charges over the last few years have been very sporadic, so the town attorney suggested making it an article before starting to charge them again.

Article 18: Shall the Town vote to expend \$260,000 from the FY21 surplus to fund the Planning & Acquisition Capital Fund for the purpose of the Public Safety Facility expenditures?

- What would this be doing? This would be to cover any overcharges that may occur at the end of the Public Safety Facility Project. If it isn't needed, it would go back into the general fund. There has been some cost shifting that has been able to be negotiated, so this is "just in case". Not all of the surplus is being asked to be placed in this fund.

Article 19: Shall the Town vote to discontinue its two additional elected Lister positions pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2650(c) so the number of elected Listers is reduced to three?

- There is no longer a need for five. And the goal is to switch over to an assessor's office within the next year. The assessor will be an appointed position.

Article 20: Shall the Town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863?

- This was a petitioned article. Is there a limit on the number of retailers? Voters have to vote on the retail cannabis, and can vote to rescind it later on. Rescinding it does not remove licensing for those who currently have their license. Retailers will need two licenses; they will need to go to the local cannabis control board (likely the Selectboard), and then the state. There is no limit to number of retailers. There are other types of licenses that the town would not have a say in; growing, manufacturing, distributor licenses.

Article 21: Shall the Town vote to add three Justice of the Peace positions for a total of ten, based on the population?

- The number of JOP's depends on a town's population. They would be on the November 2022 ballot and go into office January 2023.

Article 22: Shall the Town vote to collect taxes on August 26, 2022 and February 24, 2023?

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 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