

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Gretchen Havreluk, Therese Lounsbury, Melissa Boyles, Amelia Nick, Jessica Lee Smith, Elizabeth McEwen, Caryn Packard, David Petrie, John Lazelle, Geri Kogut

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of Nov 15 and Dec 13, 2022
 - Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of November 15 and December 13, 2022, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022, Rice second 4-0, Fisher abstained.
3. Action Items
 - Fitzgerald moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Geri Kogut from the Trails Committee and Recreation Commission, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to approve granting Voices of Hope a National Opioids Settlement distribution through their fiduciary in the amount of \$1,544.05 to help abate the effects of the opioid epidemic in our community, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Fisher moved to approve the 2022 Errors & Omissions from the Listers Office, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Rice moved to approve the roof repair estimate from WCRC at 18 Beaver Street in the amount of \$30,152, Fisher second; all in favor. The (old) Firehouse Capital fund balance is \$33,029.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into the Sewer Commission, Rice second; all in favor.

4. Sewer Commission
 - Tribuno moved to approve a preliminary allocation request for 265 gpd for a 2-bedroom apartment at 4 South Main Street, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of Sewer Commission.

5. Social Services
 - Senior Solutions- Request Increase; a thank you for support to seniors, and use of 18 Beaver St. (old Firehouse) with over 35 resident visits seeking assistance. In January, expect to expand hours, continuing collaboration with partners in the building. Request an increase of \$450.
 - Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Deerfield Valley Campus-New Request; the DV Campus sees 778 residents and does not refuse to see someone regardless on ability to pay. DV Campus priority is to hire a new doctor; a new Nurse Practitioner has been hired. A question about patients whose account has been dormant for more than two years, requires the patient to undergo an initial physical. Request for a ballot question in the amount of \$3,000

6. Highway Department

- Rice moved to approve the purchase of a 2024 Western Star dump truck from ATG in the amount of \$204,235, Fisher second; all in favor.

7. DVFiber CUD

- Update by Gretchen Havreluk (Financial & Nominating Committees) and Ann Manwaring (Governing Board VP). DV Fiber hired Great Works Internet of Maine as their engineering project partner. Their goal is “to the last mile” bringing fiber to each home in 24 towns. DV Fiber received \$26M in ARPA grants from the state for preconstruction and construction of 513 miles of fiber, connection up to 7,700 addresses. In addition, a request for local ARPA funds in the amount of \$25,000–\$30,000 was introduced as a subsidy to assist homeowners. An executive director and admin. support to be hired in 2023. Sign-up for newsletter at dvfiber.net.

8. Long-Term Rentals

- Economic Development Consultant, Gretchen Havreluk, presented two models taken from Woodstock, Vermont regarding long-term rental incentive programs. The programs would be based on turning short-term rentals into long-term rentals through incentive grants, and developing ADUs (accessory dwelling units) on owner occupied properties. Details were discussed and a potential ask is for an estimated \$62,000. General consent is to continue developing the programs as outlined to help with workforce housing needs.

9. Searsburg Fire Agreement

- Fitzgerald moved to approve a 5-year fire agreement for fire protection services with the Town of Searsburg, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into the Liquor Commission, Rice second; all in favor.

10. Liquor License

- Rice moved to approve a Second-Class Liquor Application for Farmhouse Market at 136 Route 100 N, Fisher second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission

11. Other Business – none.

12. Select Board Members Comments

- Tribuno asked about replacing our Senior Solutions’ Representative.
- Fitzgerald pointed out “an end of an era” as Wheeler’s Farm just sold their cows.

13. Town Manager’s Updates

- Happy Holidays!

14. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communications would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:33 p.m., to include the Town Manager, to discuss attorney –client communications, Fisher second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:29 pm

No action taken

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott A. Tucker, Town Manager

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno