

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes April 4, 2023

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon (zoom), Vince Rice at 6:33 pm, Sarah Fisher, Tony Tribuno

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Marshall Dix, Christine Richter, Chris Walling, Scott Moore, Cliff Duncan, Therese Lounsbury, Jessica Lee Smith, Bonnie Lorimer, Nicki Steel, Shelly Lockyear, Fred Aldrich, Meg Streeter, Carolyn Palmer, Kevin Rogers

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Add An Outside Consumption License for HMC Hospitality at Mirror Lake under Liquor Commission
 - Under action items, move the last item up to below the first item.
2. Approve Minutes of March 21, 2023
 - Tribuno moved to approve Minutes of March 21, 2023, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. 1% Local Option Tax Request
 - Tribuno moved to approve a 1% request from VYS in the amount of \$15,195, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to allocate up to \$40,000 to the Events Fund annually, Fisher second; all in favor.
4. Action Items
 - Fisher moved to approve the audit proposal from Sullivan and Powers Co over 5 years starting at \$24,000, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Fisher moved to adopt the resolution of Amendment #1 to the Town of Wilmington HRA Plan, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Fisher moved to approve the gravel bid from Mitchell Materials in the amount of \$29.90/cy, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Fisher moved to approve the purchase of stone material from Cersosimo, Tribuno second; all in favor.
 - Tribuno moved to approve the paving bid from Peckham for chip sealing Shearer Hill in the amount of \$65,650, Gannon second; 3-0, Fisher abstained.
 - Tribuno moved to approve the paving bid from Springfield Paving in the amount of \$255,989.15, Fisher second; all in favor. Fred Aldrich from All State commented that the chip seal should have been a separate bid from the hot mix.
5. Local Emergency Management Plan
 - Command Center and Shelter locations were updated; otherwise, no changes. Fitzgerald moved to approve the 2023 Local Emergency Management Plan, Rice second; all in favor.
6. Town Meeting
 - The Selectboard heard public thoughts on ways to improve Town Meeting participation. (see Cliff's handout attached).
Almost 1600 registered voters didn't attend in person.
Record the informational meeting?
Send a survey to the registered voters asking if they do/don't attend and why?

Hybrid town meetings to make it more accessible?

Starting earlier in the day

Newer residents don't know about town meeting.

There is a job fair at the TVMHS May 2nd.

No politics are allowed in the voting building.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into Liquor Commission at 7:20 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Liquor Commission

- Rice moved to approve a First- and Third-Class and Outside Consumption renewal for La Casita LLC, VT Golf Hospitality dba The Stack, L&S Inc dba North Star Bowl, WI Foster LLC dba Wilmington Inn, 19 South Main, and HMC Hospitality dba Hermitage Club;
- A Second-Class renewal for Starfire Bakery LLC and HMC Hospitality dba Hermitage Club,
- A First-Class and Outside Consumption renewal for The Village Roost; and
- An Outside Consumption License for HMC Hospitality at Mirror Lake, Tribuno second; all in favor.

Out of Liquor Commission at 7:23 pm.

8. Other Business/Correspondence

9. Select Board Members Comments

- Fitzgerald commented that the DRB had to cancel last night due to members not being available due to upcoming conflicts. According to VLCT , Selectboard members can sit as alternates. Gannon and Fisher are willing to sit as alternates.
- Gannon mentioned a current bill at the state that would leave reappraisals up to the state and eliminating the BCA. Town would be billed for the service. Should a committee form to look at Town Meeting?

10. Town Manager's Updates

- 2nd annual charity basketball game-Fire vs Police, happened April 2nd.
- PD received a scholarship to attend an FBI training, de-escalation training and evidence room management.
- Attending ICMA conference next week.
- Sidewalk snow removal cost about \$10,000 through the last big storm, and Highway estimate \$600,000 in damage considering the soft road surfaces.
- Preconstruction meeting tomorrow for the painting of town hall.
- ZA has gotten a lot of publicity around her short-term rental pamphlet. They are being directed to attend Planning Commission meetings, as that is where zoning changes occur.
- Water shut-offs will happen this week for 19 properties in arrears.

11. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the possible real estate sites would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 8:10 pm, to include the Town Manager, to discuss possible real estate sites for a new town office, Rice second; all in favor.

Came out of executive session at 8:32 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

Proposed changes to Wilmington's annual Town Meeting.

4/4/23

1. Utilizing 1% tax fund money, to pay for and cater a full breakfast for all voters from 8 AM to 9:30. Selectboard members would circulate among different tables enabling casual conversations with voters about subjects of local importance. This time would also serve as an opportunity for our state Representative and Senators to discuss and hear feedback from voters about measures being considered in Montpelier.
2. From 10AM - 12PM hold group meetings in separate class rooms where local industry leaders from hospitality, culinary, technology, trades (including builders, electrical, plumbing, engineering, automotive, etc.) real estate, legal, retail sales, law enforcement, medical, accounting education, administrative, public service/political, would offer information about economic opportunities in their respective industries here in the Valley. This "job fair" like event would be organized and managed in conjunction with the Twin Valley Middle High School Guidance Dept. under the direction of the Selectboard.

The Selectboard shall request that the Twin Valley School Board require all students in grades 10 through 12 attend all of these events on town Meeting day. They shall also request that these students be required to write a paper describing in detail their experience and what they learned about governance and local career opportunities while attending Town Meeting.

3. Utilizing 1% tax fund money, pay for and cater a full lunch for all voters and immediate family from 12 PM to 1:00PM.
4. From 1:15 to 2:15 PM, "candidates forum" where all candidates for elected local positions offer to voters attending Town Meeting, their perspective on the issues surrounding the office they seek to hold with questions taken from the floor.
5. No longer elect local officials by Australian ballot. All future candidates for local elected offices and positions shall be elected by closed ballot on the floor of Town Meeting once all warned articles have been moved.
6. From 2:15 on hold our Wilmington Town Meeting.
7. Request that the school staff help coordinate and arrange day care for parents with school age students who wish to attend Town Meeting.
8. Develop incentives for employers, to offer employees who attend Town Meeting the day off with pay.

Submitted respectfully:

Cliff Duncan
Wilmington