

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine Richter, Bethaney LaClair, Walter White, Eric Craven, Mike Linnehan, Therese Lounsbury, Elizabeth Goldsmith, Todd Stewart, Ann Manwaring, Joanne Yankura, Marshall Dix, Steve Love, Cliff Duncan, Nicki Steel, Bonnie Lorimer

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Under action items: To approve assessor's request for a 30-day extension under 32 VSA 4342 "grand list extension."
 - Add attorney-client communication to executive session.
 - Add a special event permit to liquor commission.
2. Approve Minutes of May 2, 2023
 - Gannon moved to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023, Rice second; 3-0, Fitzgerald and Tribuno abstained.
3. Action Items
 - Fitzgerald moved to appoint Elizabeth Goldsmith as E-911 Coordinator, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to appoint Trails Committee alternate Joanne Yankura as a regular member, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Fitzgerald moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Alex Rioux from the Trails Committee, Rice second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to accept the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program Mini-Grant in the amount of \$4000, Fisher second; all in favor.
 - Gannon moved to approve the resolution for the Northern Borders Grant for the project known as the Route 9 Infrastructure Expansion Project, Rice second; all in favor.
 - The Selectboard to appoint a representative for tax sale on June 28th at noon - Tribuno will represent.
 - Gannon moved to approve the Assessor's request for a 30-day extension to file the grand list under 32 VSA 4342, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into water commission at 6:11 pm

4. Water Commission
 - Eligibility amount is \$55/connection, if we do the work ourselves, totaling \$14,355. This loan is forgiven once the project is completed. Fitzgerald moved to approve a loan application for the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund up to \$34,564 in eligibility, Fisher second; all in favor.

Out of water commission at 6:14 pm

5. Audit
 - Steve Love from Love, Cody & Co gave a close-out presentation of the FY22 audit. No internal difficulties with management in terms of reporting and documentation. This is the first year of

the water dept being included in the audit. \$5.5 million increase to the assets due to the completion of the Public Safety Building.

6. 1% Local Option Tax Fund Event Request

- There is an increase in cost to fireworks this year. They have been doing fireworks for 16 years. Fisher moved to approve a 1% request from the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$9,000 for 4th of July fireworks, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Deerfield Valley Fiber

- The Town funds must come from ARPA funds. DV Fiber can't use tax payer money. The Vermont Community Broadband Board will match any money given. DV Fiber is not charging for installation. Some barriers are cost of installation, training/education, equipment such as iPads, assist in monthly charges for the service. Twenty-four towns are in the district and 10 towns have pledged funds so far. Wilmington is a Phase-2 town, so build-out will be end of 204/25. Build-out in Readsboro has already started. Duncan feels that Consolidated will follow this build around and build their own network off of it. He also thinks that money could be going toward a taxpaying business that provides this service. The ARPA funds had previously been delegated to the Rt 9 Infrastructure Project. DV Fiber's project is another goal of the Selectboard. DV Fiber's project is targeting un-served and under-served areas. Gannon moved to approve \$10,000 in ARPA funds for barriers to access for Wilmington residents, targeting overcome barriers to lower-income residents of Wilmington, Fisher second; 4-0, Tribuno abstained.

8. Veteran's Memorial Park

- Fitzgerald moved to approve the use of the green space at 40 Beaver St for the Veteran's Memorial Park, Rice second; all in favor.
- The Selectboard reviewed the preliminary design for the VMP and agreed on the design and the quote for initial design. Design cost \$12,000; the rough estimate to complete the park is around \$250,000. There may be some grants available.
- Gannon moved to establish a donation fund for the Veteran's Memorial Park, Rice second; all in favor.
- Gannon moved to approve a challenge donation in the amount of \$50,000 to the VMP from the 1% Local Option Tax Fund to kickstart the funding efforts, Rice second; all in favor.

9. Town Meeting

- A draft survey was created to measure voter interest in town meeting. The survey can be completed digitally or in paper form. Steel suggested: age ranges, "I don't think I make a difference" as an option for those who don't attend, "important tradition" as an option for those who do, finding a way to let people know about the survey, ideas for getting students involved. The Selectboard agreed on the proposed survey questions, with discussed changes, to measure voter interest in Town Meeting Day. Gannon will move forward.

10. Personnel Policy

- Some language was altered, taking into consideration our Declaration of Inclusion. Holidays have been updated to include those that the state has added over the last couple of years, and vacation time adjusted for employees to gain vacation time earlier, to help with hiring and retention. Gannon moved to approve the amended personnel policy, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to enter into liquor commission at 7:39 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

11. Liquor Commission

- Gannon moved to approve an Outside Consumption Permit for Valley Craft Ales, and
- A Special Event Permit for an event at High Country Marine on July 2nd from 3–9 pm, catered by SC Distillation, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of liquor commission at 7:40 pm

12. Other Business/Correspondence

- The Selectboard set a summer schedule of the 3rd Tuesday in June, July and August.

13. Select Board Members Comments

- Tribuno suggested the Veteran’s Memorial Group be asked if they would like to submit a report to the town report.
- Gannon attended his first DRB meeting last night. Cheryl has been doing great and they need more involvement from the members.

14. Town Manager’s Updates

- John Lazelle was selected to serve as VP of VRWA.
- Rec Committee’s middle school summer program is putting out their registration information.

15. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the real estate purchases and attorney–client communications would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:56 pm, to include the town manager, to discuss possible real estate purchases and attorney–client communications, Fisher second; all in favor.

Executive Session ended at 8:46 p.m.; no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 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