

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes May 2, 2023

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Christine Richter, John and Rachel Lazelle, Chris Brown, Gretchen Havreluk, Therese Lounsbury, Adam Grinold, Jessica Lee Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda

2. Approve Minutes of April 18, 2023

- Rice moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2023, Fisher second; all in favor

Rice moved to enter into Sewer Commission at 6:00 pm, Fisher second; all in favor.

3. Sewer Commission

- The Sewer Commission to possibly approve the following:
 - o Fisher moved to approve final allocation for 4 South Main – Vittorini – for an additional 265 gallons (2–bedroom apartment), Rice second; all in favor.
 - o Fisher moved to approve preliminary allocation for 1 East Main – Wendel – for 765 gallons (6 bedrooms, 4 apartments), Rice second; all in favor.
 - o Fisher moved to approve preliminary allocation for 18 Country Club Road – Lopez – 420 gallons (3–bedroom house), Rice second; all in favor.
 - o Fisher moved to approve preliminary allocation for 10 Whitney Lane – Messing – for 140 gallons (1–bedroom in–law apartment), Rice second; all in favor.
- Wastewater has been composting bio–solids since about 1994. They have been composting 6–7 times a year up until 2015. After the upgrade of the plant, that dropped to twice a year. Due to this and the aging 30–year equipment, the necessary expense doesn’t seem worth it for so little compost. The added unknown of PFAS testing is another factor. Lazelle is working with Casella on pricing for them to take the sludge. Lazelle is recommending the town cease their composting process and enter an agreement with Casella or similar vendor to take it away. WSWMD may also help us find a company that handles this kind of sludge. The Sewer Commission agreed with the recommendation for sludge management.

Out of Sewer Commission at 6:16 pm

4. FY23 Budget Update

- Water– revenues should be above the anticipated amount; miscellaneous expense deficit is due to the VOSHA violations. Water Dept. budget is expected to end in the black.
- Sewer; some properties are on tax sale list. Sewer should end in the black.
- Highway– guardrail line shows an increase, due to income from an insurance claim, and we are hoping to get the guardrails fixed this year; fuel prices went up and we did not receive a flat rate to lock in for diesel fuel; building maintenance increase is due to VOSHA violations. Highway budget is expected to end up in the black this year.
- General Fund– we have about \$80,000 on the tax sale list; sold a few properties this year; police and fire expenditures for telephone are higher due to new connections in the new building; healthcare shows about \$100,000 under spent with the new plan. The general fund should end up in the black, but a large surplus is not expected.

5. 1% Local Option Tax Requests

- Today's job fair at TVMHS was a part of the P3 program and a smaller version of the Reality program they held at Leland & Grey last winter, as reported by Adam Grinold. Fisher moved to approve the 1% request from SEVEDS in the amount of \$5628, Rice second; all in favor.
- Brown is looking for assistance to repair the exterior of his newly purchased building at 37 West Main; a total renovation cost is about \$350,000. The town does not have a façade program, but they do have a revolving loan program. The Selectboard suggests he apply for a revolving loan program. Havreluk also stated that there are other tax credits that may be available. Smith feels that Brown puts a lot of himself forward for the town and kids in the community. The applicant withdrew this request.

6. Tax Stabilization

- This building, in the Historic District, has been blighted for many years, and it will contribute to the 1% LOT, and create housing. The interior is getting a full renovation, and it will be repainted with new windows. The intent is to rent long-term; the two studio apartments may be short-term if he can't get renters for long-term. Gannon does not feel the town should be subsidizing short-term rentals in any way. Fisher moved to approve the tax stabilization for 37 West Main St, Rice second; all in favor.

7. Other Business/Correspondence

8. Select Board Members Comments

- Tennis court line painting? We have reached out to a few places and gotten no responses.

9. Town Manager's Updates

- Municipal Energy Resilience Program; still waiting to hear back on the grant. Moving forward with the energy fair on June 3rd with the understanding that we will be receiving the grant.
- Town hall repair and painting; still waiting on the arrival of the windows. There are some areas of the building that are significantly rotted; waiting on estimates to get the repairs done so painting can continue.
- The water district qualifies for a no-interest loan to do a service line inventory (lead & copper).
- Hall Rd Dam Removal project, pre-construction meeting June 29th

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 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