

Wilmington Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes **April 25, 2024**

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Tony Tribuno, Sarah Fisher; Absent: Rice.

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Therese Lounsbury, John Lazelle, Chris Lavoy, Gretchen Havreluk, Wayne Elliott, Brandon Brassor, Jeff Longe, Chris Mays, Meg Streeter, Bonnie Lorimer, Steven Chila, Tiffany Chila, Joe Garra, Samantha Kondracki.

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. The Selectboard discusses the Route 9 Water / Sewer Expansion Project
 - Fitzgerald said this project has been in the works for the last 6-years, with the water district merger, and the town plan.
 - Lavoy (Water Operator) said it was a “bad idea” to have a long dead-end line, describing it as the worst distribution system. He discussed operational cost increases related to filtration, flushing, chlorine, and residuals. His interest is in water quality and affordability, while not against economic expansion. He feels town should look for additional groundwater sources (a well/independent aquifer) to deliver water to the project, and believes this plan is unsustainable. Interest in using a Hydrologist to identify potential sites for a well in the project area.
 - Elliott (AE Engineer) said that demand for water will reduce the stagnant water that will develop in an 8” line that is required for fire protection. There is a Water Dept. Asset Management Plan in development that will address issues with the system. Stagnation in the lines is more of an issue in the summer months, but as more connections increase, stagnation will decrease; water age and disinfection to manage. He pointed out that our reservoir water sits for 10-days, when the recommendation is to hold enough water for 3-5 days, to move the water through the system sooner – use ½ the amount of water. Elliott said that a simple mixer could help with disinfection as well as the number of connections. Consolidation of systems has been encouraged to be more efficient. Developing a future water source could be an opportunity as an alternate source. Other suggestions were made. Elliott talked about how Champlain Water District manages a lot of long dead-end lines in their system with the use of Chloramines to treat drinking water. A Hydrologist could be hired to perform a “desk top” survey identifying 2-3 probable locations within the project area for a potential alternate water source.
 - Chilla asked what happens now with other dead-end lines in town, and that he will connect.
 - Havreluk (Economic Development Consultant) outlined the economic benefits once water & sewer is extended to help develop this area of town.
 - Streeter suggested considering what Lavoy had to say and he has served the community well over many years.
 - Kondracki concerned with water safety.
 - Lazelle stated that Chris brought out these concerns previously at meetings, and suggested that connections be mandated to improve initial low usage in new water and sewer lines. He read a letter submitted by Lopez regarding the need for an extension on Country Club Road; Lazelle mentioned a parcel that a neighbor thought had a failing septic.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott A. Tucker

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno