

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

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

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Marshall Dix, Christine Richter, Charlie Foster, John Lebron, John Lazelle, Therese Lounsbury, Samantha Kondracki, Jake Moore, Elynn LeBron

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Changes to Agenda

2. Selectboard Candidate Interviews

- John LeBron is committed to attending meetings and BCA. He is willing to work with the town plan in moving the town office out of the floodplain and the Route 9 water/sewer extension project. LeBron enjoys being involved locally as much as possible. He was on Planning Commission for 10 years and has been President of the Mountain View Homeowner Assoc for 15 years. He thinks that the town is doing well but there needs to be more encouragement for residents and shops to stay open later. His work schedule is flexible and works from home most of the time. LeBron thinks the vacant building ordinance needs to be enforced more often rather than letting them sit for so long. He feels he can overlook what is best for him and do what is best for the town. LeBron supports the Town Manager form of government. Transparency is an issue. He can make the Board better by speaking his mind and keeping the town's interests at the forefront. Education and infrastructure are important for the younger families coming into town.
- Charlie Foster is able to commit to Selectboard and BCA meetings. Foster is in favor of moving the town office and extending the water and sewer outside of downtown. He just finished his 3rd term as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Wilmington needs to support new businesses coming into the valley. He is concerned about the vacant buildings but also about business owners' readying for retirement. There are many people who don't know what the different boards do and getting that information out there could drum up more volunteers. He feels he could absolutely choose the town's good over his own. He is in support of maintaining the Town Manager form of government. He feels there are people who don't know enough about the board and they only know the bad press. The good things like what the 1% (local option fund) does, isn't what is printed and put out there for people to know about. Foster feels he knows a lot of the businesses and the people who don't want or don't know how to bring things to the Board. And he feels he is approachable. It's important how information gets out to the public. To change the perception of the Board you could try word-of-mouth, being positive about what the Board is doing, and maybe talk to some of the papers. He is committed to seeing this town move up.

3. Health Insurance

- Our insurance broker told us we would have a 10% increase. Cigna wouldn't give a quote. Our plan compared to those on the exchange had a higher increase between 14-20%. Our current plan allows for a possible refund based on claims experience. We are doing better this year than last year, so we might see a small refund. Our deductibles increased \$250/\$200. The proposal is to have employees share be \$500/\$1000 on the back half. This year's increase is about \$14,000 less than last year. Tribuno moved to approve health insurance plans for 2025, Rice second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno