

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 21, 2025

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, Vince Rice, Tony Tribuno, John Lebron

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica Archambault, Kaylie Cadorette, Andrew Wolfson, Christine Richter, Matthew Murano, Jessica Roberts, Cearra O'Hern, Therese Lounsbury, Robbie Lordi

Meeting called to order at 11:30 am

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

2. 2025 Tax Rate

- The tax rate is .5403, up .06 from last year. With the education rate; homestead 1.3136 and non-homestead 1.3485, the total rates are 1.8550 and 1.8899, respectively. Rice moved to approve the 2025–2026 municipal tax rate, Tribuno second; all in favor.
- Homestead filing rates: if a homeowner files a homestead incorrectly and there is no tax advantage, the town can charge up to 3%; if there is a tax advantage for the property owner, the town can charge up to 8%; we currently charge 4%. Tribuno moved to accept the 3% and 4% penalty fees based on the statute, Lebron second; all in favor.

3. Vicious Dog Hearing called to order at 11:45 am

Oath given to Robbie Lordi, Andrew Wolfson, Officer Cadorette, and Town Health Officer Jessica Roberts. Exhibits A, B, C D, E, F, G, H as follows– 3 pictures of wound, hospital visit summary, complaint form, Wilmington Police report, updated statement of Andrew Wolfson, 2 photos of Pearl's (dog) teeth.

- Testimony of complainant Andrew Wolfson: concern for rabies for Pearl (dog), rabies for Derek (dog); and provided an updated statement. He has been advised by medical personnel to take the rabies vaccine, since records of both dogs have not been received. He is immuno-compromised, so it is a large undertaking. Wolfson is suffering from some mental issues from the incident and may have to consider seeking treatment for it. He described walking down Cornell Way when two dogs ran up to him and jumped at him; one latched onto his arm. He doesn't think the dog that is being named (Dereck) mostly in the paperwork is the one that bit him. The dog that bit him was a monochromatic tan dog with a Pitbull look. The other dog had more black/brown coloring mixed in with less Pitbull. He called 911 from home; Deerfield Valley Rescue came and saw him along with police. Afterwards, he drove to Brattleboro Hospital to be seen. He is hoping to get confirmation on vaccinations. Wolfson would like to see both dogs euthanized, as they are a danger to those around them; confirmation of euthanizing to be provided. Or both dogs relocated and impounded, chained/muzzled at all times. Mr. Lordi said one dog is scheduled to be euthanized in two weeks due to dementia; would like confirmation that has happened. Neither dog is licensed with the town; they should be licensed with the town. He feels he should be reimbursed for all medical, out-of-pocket and other reasonable expenses.
- Testimony of dog owner Robbie Lordi: He has been in town since September. He was also afraid for Andrew when he saw what was happening. He is positive that it was Derek that attacked Andrew. He saw Derek bite Andrew and he had to pull Pearl off of Derek, to get him off of Andrew. He split dogs with his girlfriend when they split and she lives in Texas. He plans to euthanize Derek due to his dementia. He has a system, in terms of handling the

dogs, which is why the neighbors haven't seen the dogs since he moved in. The system failed that day. Pearl is missing her k-9's and some other teeth. Derek's rabies certification was submitted to the police dept and he left a copy on Andrew's door. He has had no other complaints about the dogs.

- Testimony of Officer Cadorette: Due to how worked-up Mr. Wolfson was on 9-1-1, dispatch didn't want to send Rescue alone. Ofc. Cadorette spoke with both parties and Mr. Lordi was very forthcoming; Lordi told the officer that Pearl was trying to pull Derek off of Andrew when he arrived. She misinterpreted what he had said regarding Derek's euthanizing statement. She thought he had an appointment, but he has plans to make one. He is looking for an in-home vet. She has not issued any tickets or violations at this time. She does believe that Derek is the one that bit the victim and that his rabies vaccine is current.
- Chief Murano stated that after the hearing is complete, the police dept will determine if any civil violations occurred under the animal ordinance. Euthanizing the animal is probably best for the first dog. He would consider both dogs behavior concerning and some controls should be put in place for the second dog.
- Testimony of Health Officer, Jessica Roberts: she took a statement from both parties and had a hard time determining which dog bit the victim.
- Selectboard Comments/Discussion: Mr. Lordi will submit pictures of the dog when he gets home.

Hearing closed at 12:51 pm and the Selectboard went into deliberative session.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Archambault

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

Vince Rice, Vice Chair

Tony Tribuno, Clerk

Charlie Foster

John Lebron