

# Selectboard Budget Meeting Minutes

12/19/25

**Present:** Tom Fitzgerald, Vince Rice, Tony Tribuno, Charlie Foster, John Lebron

**Others Present:** Scott Tucker, Jessica Archambault, Christine Richter, John Lazelle, Matt Murano, Scott Moore, Marshall Dix, Sarah Kociela, Therese Lounsbury, Jason Dubac, Sara Molina, Alex Miller

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Changes to the agenda

2. FY27 Budget

- Total budget up 7.5%, which is a smaller increase than the past few years. Payroll increases 5% across the board; additional increases Highway Superintendent, Finance, Fire Chief, Corporal, Sergeant, Administrative Assistant
- Town Clerk; copiers are due to be replaced, everything else is on par with last year.
- Assessor; lowered slightly while adjusting to non-appraisal year. Goal is to move Sarah toward certification as an Assessor
- Computer support has been reduced. We have a contract with RMON and have a solid cost. Fewer trainings are happening in person, so there is less mileage reimbursement and a lot of the webinars replacing these are free.
- Police; competing with state police salaries. PD was short a dispatcher for a few months and realized a per diem dispatch position would be needed. Adjusting weekend differential pay for dispatch. Cost of vests have gone up; we do receive grants for 45% of the cost.
- Public Safety Facility; cleaning, small repairs. No capital account currently,
- Fire Dept; radio budget reduced with the new radios. Communication with KMA has been very poor. Keeping the 2001 International a bit longer. Received a FEMA grant for SCBA replacement.
- GMB; Lake Raponda Dam maintenance and funds going into capital for construction. GMB has a grant for some rehab work that will need additional funds. Doing work at Buzzy Park to make it more user friendly and the bank more sustainable along Beaver Brook.
- Social Services; have met with VT Bar, DVR, and SafePlace asking for increases.
- Transfer Station; hired a new full-time attendant/building and grounds. Planning an enclosure off the metal building to store the backhoe, related to state storm water regulations, and increasing storage.
- Legal/Audit; last contract year for the auditor (Sullivan & Powers) so we will need to go out to bid or ask to extend the contract.
- Library; proposing a 2% increase in their funds.

- Memorial Hall; proposing \$100,000 to capital. There are two grants right now, and we still must repair/replace the siding and paint the trim as well.
- Planning Commission; working on the town plan.
- Recreation; expanding activities offered and working with the town on improving Buzzy Park. Adding a part-time rec coordinator; with the expansion of programs, and grant applications/research, it has grown beyond a volunteer role.
- Town hall; adding to the capital to assist in the outstanding projects that need to be completed. HVAC needs to be replaced, a grant for energy and ADA improvements is ongoing.
- Highway; culvert standards have increased, so cost is increasing. Grants are not plentiful. The gravel line has not seen an increase in quite a few years; using more gravel every year. We have gone over our snow removal line every year. Beaver Street rock wall (retaining wall along the cemetery) has a section pushing out. Applied for a planning grant, to help with a design for sidewalks, rock wall replacement, and park improvements, that was not received. The budget reflects the need for engineering to design a replacement for the wall, and add a sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety. Line striping is a bit higher; it did not get done last year, and the cost of the contractor is higher. Planning to try another rehab on a truck, rather than buying new. Looking at purchasing a Ventrack with attachments; we would be able to help with sidewalks during the daytime, and with salting when the contractor is tied up. A bridge capital plan was created. Grant options are declining, so this will help plan a funding timeline. There are some bridges in need of repair or replacement soon.
- Police Capital Fund; increasing to account for rising vehicle costs, and technology (body cams, in-car cams, server).

### 3. Other Business

- Jessica will send out the town report dedication list and get feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Archambault

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

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Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

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Vince Rice, Vice Chair

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Tony Tribuno, Clerk

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Charlie Foster

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John Lebron