

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 18, 2016

Chairman Nelson Tift called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

Selectboard Members Present: Nelson Tift, Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier.

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, and Jay Kenlan

Agenda Amendments. None

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the January 4, 2016 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Orders. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve pay orders totaling \$10,629.10 after \$90.26 was added for an overpayment of Chapman taxes, \$630 was added for Wright Reappraisal Services and \$300 was added for Nelson Tift's stipend to be paid to the WES Winter Program account. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve and sign VTrans Certificate of Highway Miles. Motion carried (5-0).

FY'17 Budget. Board members reviewed the FY'17 budget of \$1,059,828.20 with \$728,520.13 to be raised in taxes. G. Fredette commented the largest increase was in the Public Safety section of the budget due to the expiration of a grant that offset a portion of the Rutland County Sheriff Department expenses.

Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon reported the 2016 municipal tax rate would be \$0.3031 using this year's grand list compared to the 2015 municipal tax rate of \$0.2948.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to accept the FY'17 budget as presented. Motion carried (5-0).

FY'17 Warning. Board members reviewed the FY'17 Town Warning. G. Fredette asked Town Moderator Jay Kenlan whether Article V calling for \$22,300 to be raised in property taxes for the rehabilitation of the tennis courts could be voted by Australian ballot to give all voters the opportunity to cast ballots.

Mr. Kenlan said he would research the question, but he advised it was his understanding that voters must approve use of the Australian ballot system of voting at an annual or special meeting.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to accept the tennis court rehabilitation petition signed by the proper number of registered voters. Motion carried (5-0).

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to add the tennis court Article to the FY' 17 Warning to be voted by Australian ballot or floor vote as required under state statute. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to accept the FY'17 Warning. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comments. None.

Dog Bite. N. Tift noted the town's attorney, Gary Kupferer, advised the board to schedule a dog hearing for the complaint filed by John Costales regarding Paula Baker's dog.

By consensus, the board set the dog hearing for Monday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The board directed Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to notify Mr. Costales and Ms. Baker of the hearing date and time. They further requested Mr. Kupferer and Dog Warden Jerry Tift attend the hearing.

Grand List Extension. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to sign a request made by assessor Lisa Wright Garcia asking the state to extend the deadline for filing the grand list to January 31, 2016. Motion carried (5-0).

Workplace Safety. The board reviewed the list of workplace safety recommendations made by Wallingford Fire Chief Michael Hughes after his visit to the town garage on January 14.

G. Fredette suggested setting a timeline for items on the list to be addressed. By consensus, the board agreed to request an update from Road Foreman Steve Lanfear by the February 1 meeting.

By consensus, the board agreed the road crew should attend a safety training session at Clarendon Town Hall on Thursday, January 21.

Prudential Committee Appointment. There was a discussion regarding the Prudential Committee's recommendation to appoint Charlie Gauthier to an open seat on the committee until the April annual meeting.

The letter of request noted the Prudential Committee sought advice from the Secretary of State's office regarding an individual holding a seat on the Selectboard as well as the Prudential Committee.

Following the discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to appoint Mr. Gauthier to the Prudential Committee. Motion carried (4-1). R. Regula cast the dissenting vote.

Other Business/Announcements. N. Tift requested \$300 of his annual Select Board stipend be sent to Wallingford Elementary to be used for the winter ski program.

There was a discussion regarding the use of Town Hall by a New Hampshire musician with suggested donations of \$10. The board by consensus agreed to set a fee of \$50 including a \$25 refundable cleaning deposit.

The board requested S. Switzer seek further information from assessor Lisa Wright Garcia regarding a tablet she offered to sell the town to be used during the next reappraisal and for property inspections.

The board reviewed the Superior Court decision related to the Chapman property assessment appeal. The board agreed to request copies of all evidence presented by Chapman to the court. The board further agreed not to appeal the court's decision.

There was a brief discussion regarding putting vitals (marriages, births and deaths) in the annual Town Report. By consensus, the board agreed to continue the practice.

The board approved J. Sharon's request to sell Boy With the Leaking Boot stickers with net proceeds going to the town's summer recreation program.

The board reviewed VLCT's opinion regarding setting employee salaries in Open rather than Executive Session unless discussion involved employee performances.

Executive Session. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to enter executive session at 8:25 p.m. for a civil matter. Motion carried (5-0).

The board exited executive session at 8:30 p.m.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks authorizing town attorney Gary Kupferer to negotiate settlements on behalf of the town in the Tom Truex and Sease/Tiplady property assessment Superior Court cases. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Date Approved: 02/01/16

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator