

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
April 16, 2018

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Joyce Barbieri, Phil Baker, Lynn Edmunds, Lisa Williams, Jill Burkett, Mark Downing, Jessica Downing, Mark Barone, Michael Hughes, John Thomson, Michael McMahon, Don Spruit, Erika Berner, and Jeff Biasuzzi.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting on April 2, 2018. Motion carried (3-0). N. Tift abstained since he was not at that meeting.

Pay Orders. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve pay orders totaling \$32,440.14 after \$149.71 was added to reimburse Sandi Switzer for the purchase of flags and flag poles. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew rebuilt one of the sanders, ordered more road salt, and were putting together a specification sheet for the purchase of a one-ton truck.

He said Road Foreman Steve Lanfear wanted to work summer hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Mr. Baker said the road foreman objected to the Selectboard's request to assist Fire District #1 with digging and/or excavation for water or sewer projects. Mr. Baker said the road foreman does not have the time or equipment to assist.

B. Brooks said the Town could revisit the issue in the future once there is a third road crew member and some of the back logged projects were completed.

Van Wyck Bridge. The board and road commissioner reviewed VTrans Representative Brian Sanderson's cost estimates for installation and rental of a temporary bridge on Van Wyck. Costs included installing a temporary bridge over the existing bridge at an estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000 or installing a temporary bridge beside the existing structure at \$30,000 to \$42,000 with shipping charges of \$1000 and monthly rental fees of \$60. The road commissioner and board acknowledged Mr. Sanderson strongly urged a hydraulic study be conducted. Mr. Sanderson further noted in his documentation to the Town he preferred installation next to the existing structure to maintain traffic during installation. He further noted an adjacent temporary bridge was advisable if the Town contemplated permanent bridge repairs in the near future.

There was a suggestion the Town consider opening an alternate route to the homes on Van Wyck. The board requested the road commissioner explore the cost and feasibility of that suggestion.

B. Brooks noted a temporary bridge over the existing structure would make sense if the alternate route was not feasible.

Catch Basin Cleaning. The board reviewed estimates from A1 Sewer (\$2500) and Windriver Environmental (\$1950) for catch basin cleaning with \$205 a yard for sludge removal. Mr. Baker suggested the sludge could be deposited at the town garage in an effort to avoid disposal costs.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving Windriver's estimate for catch basin cleaning with the road commissioner directing sludge disposal. Motion carried (4-0).

Haven Hill Grants in Aid Project. The board reviewed equipment/labor hourly rates for excavators to be used on the Haven Hill ditching project as part of the Grants in Aid work. Hourly rates were submitted by Fabian Earth Moving, Mosher Excavating, and Phil Baker and Sons.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve low bidder Phil Baker and Sons for the Haven Hill project. Motion carried (4-0).

Quarterly Financials. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon said \$135,000 was turned over to the delinquent tax collector, which was a lower amount than previous years. She said anticipated revenue was on track.

She noted overtime road crew, hired equipment, culverts and gravel were well over budget due to the July 1, 2017 storm.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the best estimate for FEMA reimbursement for the storm was the end of July. She noted the town material/labor/equipment/hired help totaled over \$190,000 and FEMA reimbursed typically 75% of that figure. She cautioned a flurry of recent FEMA emails to the town questioning some of the expenses could result in lower than anticipated reimbursement.

Resident Joyce Barbieri suggested the Town contact the state's congressional delegation to share the Town's concerns regarding FEMA.

Junk Vehicle Complaint on Village Street. In response to a junk vehicle complaint, Mark Downing provided proof of registration for three vehicles and he indicated a fourth vehicle had been salvaged and a fifth vehicle was moved into the garage. Complainant Elizabeth Filskov did not attend the meeting.

B. Brooks responded it sounded like Mr. Downing was now in compliance with the Junk Ordinance and the matter was closed.

Constable. This item was tabled until an application is submitted.

Public Comments. Wallingford Fire Chief Michael Hughes provided an overview of a fuel spill at Cumberland Farms. He estimated four to five gallons spilled onto the property after a motorist overfilled the vehicle's gas tank. He said the fire department foamed and rinsed the area with catch basins separating the fuel and water.

The fire chief said Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Wells also responded to the call when initial reports indicated up to 75 gallons was spilled. He said he appreciated Mr. Wells' offer to assist with any resources. The fire chief said state officials indicated the emergency management coordinator reported 75 gallons were spilled then deposited into Otter Creek. He asked the board to address this matter with the emergency management coordinator.

B. Brooks said the board would request Mr. Wells coordinate with emergency personnel on scene before making any reports to the state.

Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi urged the town to send a letter of recommendation to the College of St. Joseph selection committee on behalf of Erika Berner, who was one of three finalists for the CSJ president post. The board tabled the matter.

Better Backroads Grant. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving the Better Backroads Grant for a road erosion inventory conducted by Rutland Regional Planning Commission in the amount of \$6397.68 with a local in-kind match of \$1599.50. Motion carried (4-0).

Former Witham Property on Route 103. Board members reviewed the two options detailed by VLCT attorney Carl Landeer and town attorney Gary Kupferer for removal of abandoned trailers, a camper and shed at the former Witham property at 1631 Route 103 now owned by the Town. One option would be to proceed with Notices and Court Hearings and the other option would be to obtain quotes from salvage companies to dispose of the two trailers, camper and shed. B. Brooks noted some risk in salvaging the structures.

Zoning administrator Jeff Biasuzzi indicated asbestos might be an issue with the burned home on the property.

After further discussion. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to seek estimates to salvage three structures, but not the blue trailer. Motion carried (4-0).

Town Plan. Planning Commission Chair Erika Berner said the planning commission voted to send the amended Town Plan to the Selectboard.

Resident Michael McMahon cautioned the Selectboard against accepting the document and he said it needed thorough review. He said the Town Plan contained too much language about the history of the community rather than the future. He requested the board let voters accept or reject it through an Australian ballot vote.

Lynn Edmunds objected to the document indicating the regional commission influenced too much of the language and took away local authority. He said the Town Plan needed more community members' input. He urged the board to adjust statistics in the current Town Plan and readopt it.

Joyce Barbieri explained she submitted a list of errors over the course of several months that were not included in any of the updated versions of the document.

After further discussion, B. Brooks said the Selectboard would not formally accept the Town Plan to give the planning commission time to review the latest draft delivered to Town Hall by Rutland Region Planning Commission representative Elysa Smigielski earlier in the day. He said the board would revisit the issue at the May 7 meeting.

S. Switzer reminded the board the Village Designation Center renewal due in July required language and maps related to the designation be included in an approved Town Plan.

Wallingford Lodge Sign Request. The Prudential Committee requested Wallingford Lodge signs be installed on both Waldo Lane sign posts.

Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi cautioned this would set a precedent for commercial operations to make similar requests.

B. Brooks said the fire district was a government entity. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks approving the Prudential Committee's request to install two Wallingford Lodge signs as depicted in documentation with Fire District #1 responsible for obtaining any necessary state and/or Agency of Transportation permits or permission. Motion carried (4-0).

Liquor License Request for Thoroughbreads. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier approving the liquor license application for Thoroughbreads on Main Street. Motion carried (4-0).

Town Hall Roof. The board reviewed a \$4800 estimate for Town Hall roof slate repairs submitted by Vermont Roofing as well as a \$2632 estimate submitted by K. Allen Masonry to remove the capped brick chimney at the rear of Town Hall for safety reasons. She said both projects needed to be addressed as soon as possible as there were safety concerns with loose slate and bricks.

S. Switzer said she attempted to coordinate both contractors work schedules to reduce costs by sharing a lift, but that was not possible. The board then requested the town administrator seek Vermont Roofing subcontractor prices for the brick work.

After some discussion, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving Vermont Roofing's estimate at \$4800. Motion carried (4-0).

The board tabled action on the brick work until the next meeting.

Other Business. N. Tift suggested the town consider increasing the hourly rate for a third road crew person if that individual was covered by another health insurance policy and did not opt for municipal health insurance. B. Brooks asked the town administrator to check with VLCT on health insurance buyouts.

S. Switzer said she received a request from Tinmouth Elementary to hold an end of year picnic at Elfin Lake on June 15 with the school providing lifeguards. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier approving the request with the assessment of a group rate of \$2/adult and \$1/student. Motion carried (4-0).

S. Switzer said Kerry Valente requested use of Elfin Lake on June 7 for a Clarendon Elementary School picnic. Ms. Valente previously worked at Wallingford Elementary and noted in her request the town had not charged her in the past. Board members agreed there were no charges for Wallingford Elementary picnics at the lake, but group rates were assessed to other schools. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving Ms. Valente's request to use Elfin Lake on June 7 with group rates of \$2/adult and \$1/student assessed and Ms. Valente providing lifeguards. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift directing the town administrator to initiate the process of amending the firearms ordinance to include fines for violations. Motion carried (4-0).

Jill Burkett informed the Selectboard that Sal's Restaurant would be catering the Community Visit dinner on April 26 and high school students would be preparing desserts.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Date Approved: 05/0718

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator