

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
May 19, 2014

Select Board Members Present: Nelson Tift, Gary Fredette, Tom Phillips, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Jeff Biasuzzi, Jill Burkett, Ann Tiplady, Michael Frederick, Sarah Gregory, Betty Barrows, Julie Baker, Joel Baker and Tess Gauthier

Chair N. Tift called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Minutes. G. Fredette made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 5/19 meeting; M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. T. Phillips made a motion to approve pay orders totaling \$17,407.97; R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Municipal Website. Tess Gauthier of The Snelling Center informed the board a grant was available through the Vermont Digital Economy Project to assist towns impacted by Tropical Storm Irene by offering website assistance. Ms. Gauthier indicated the Wallingford website offered a lot of great information, but she said the Microsoft Frontpage website software was outdated and did not format to tablets, smartphones and widescreen computer monitors. She noted technical assistance was difficult with such outdated software.

Ms. Gauthier said the Snelling Center was willing to upgrade the town's website to a Wordpress content management system with free assistance and training for town employees. She indicated the only cost would be a host fee of \$5 to \$15 a month.

T. Phillips made a motion to transition the town's website from Frontpage to Wordpress; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Planning for Solar. G. Fredette explained the installation of solar farms at the junction of Routes 7 and 103 as well as other locations in the county and state should spur the town into being proactive in planning for local solar projects.

Planning Commission Chair Ann Tiplady responded towns have very little say over solar farm proposals. She said she discussed the issue with Ed Bove of Rutland Regional Planning Commission and learned the town would be in a weak position if the municipality objected to a solar project proposed in an industrial zone. She said she was surprised at some of the parcels listed in industrial districts and thought the planning commission may need to reconsider some of those districts.

Ms. Tiplady said most solar farm proposals were subject to Public Service Board and the town would have the opportunity to give opinions on the proposals during the review process.

Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi said the town has no zoning to prevent anyone from installing a grid less than 5kw or installing a grid more than 5kw without net metering. He said the town ought to consider adding "architectural review" language to consider where solar panels were sited. He added hot water solar collection was not regulated and the town ought to consider what,

if any, regulations may be needed. Mr. Biasuzzi indicated the town's zoning has not caught up with a lot of the renewable energy technology.

G. Fredette noted the large scale solar farms were a concern and he worried the town would have no input.

Mr. Biasuzzi responded language could be incorporated in the Town Plan regarding siting and screening of solar projects. He added new state legislation would give more weight to municipal input.

N. Tift said he would like the Planning Commission to explore incorporating language in zoning and the Town Plan to address these issues.

AT&T Steeple Proposal. Mr. Biasuzzi informed the board he had received his first communication a week ago from Paul Debole regarding a proposal to extend the Town Hall steeple by four feet to accommodate new cell tower antennas. He said townspeople were wondering when they would be able to offer input on the project. He added the town would hear a lot of input if scaffolding was erected and the steeple cut off.

Mr. Biasuzzi said the initial proposal included extending the steeple by seven feet and then it was revised to four feet. He said there has been no discussion regarding radiation impact on the community or employees in the building and the Public Service Board ought to consider it. He added a complicating factor in the application process is the fact the structure is considered an historic building. He said it was his opinion as the town's zoning administrator that the project be subject to the local Development Review process.

G. Fredette said it was the board's understanding the application would be considered by the DRB with a public hearing scheduled to gather input.

T. Phillips responded the town had not endorsed the AT&T proposal and only granted Mr. Debole permission to initiate the permitting process.

G. Fredette said he would not support the proposal if the steeple was not restored to its original appearance. He further suggested the town consider requesting the maximum amount of revenue if the project were to be approved.

Mr. Biasuzzi said the developer ought to consider how to install the antennas without altering the structure. He noted the town's lease agreement was pro-tenant, but he said state statutes favored historic structures.

The board took no action on the First Amendment to Communications Facility Agreement forwarded to the town by Mr. Debole.

Mitchell Road Request. A request by Frank Chapman to access his properties with a bulldozer using Mitchell Road under the town's new Trail Policy was reviewed by the board. Julie Baker, Joel Baker and Michael Frederick expressed concerns regarding the bulldozer's impact on the portion of the trail that cuts through the Ellie Frederick property.

Betty Barrows raised the issue of using the bulldozer to grade or improve the trail resulting in an increase in the number and size of vehicles that could access it.

After much discussion, the board by consensus instructed Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to

send Mr. Chapman a response letter prohibiting any improvements to Mitchell Road, requiring a 30-day notice to abutters regarding the date the bulldozer would access the trail, restricting the bulldozer to one round trip into the Chapman properties, limiting access between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., requiring advance proof of liability insurance and restricting bulldozer access to the southern entrance of the Frederick property. The board directed the letter to include permission for Mr. Chapman to use a chainsaw to remove any branches, limbs or trees that had fallen onto the trail.

S. Switzer was instructed to provide a copy of the letter to the board to be reviewed and signed at the 6/2 meeting.

Board members discussed meeting at the trail before the 6/2 meeting to explore whether a bulldozer would be able to access it. G. Fredette said the meeting would have to be warned if three or more board members were present.

Financials. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided the board with an update on the FY '14 budget ending June 30th. She noted not much of the \$7500 budgeted for the grader had been spent (line item #5307) and there was money left in the gravel budget as well as hired equipment.

G. Fredette said he would like the Town Garage fund earmarked for the Town Garage and he said removing the underground storage tank was a priority.

Drug & Alcohol Policy for CMV Operators. G. Fredette made a motion to approve the Drug & Alcohol Policy for CMV Operators; M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift directed S. Switzer to provide copies to the road crew.

Building Use Request. The board by consensus denied Joan Kelley's request to use the second floor of Town Hall for a high school graduation party due to the Historical Society items and artifacts on display.

Elfin Lake Use Request. G. Fredette made a motion to approve a request by Lisa Morgello for a Currier Memorial School party at Elfin Lake on June 10 with a rain date of June 11; R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Morgello was informed they would need to provide lifeguards and the fees were \$1.50 per adult and 75 cents per child.

David N. Baxter Family Fund Donation to Town. The board expressed its sincerest appreciation to the David N. Baxter family for the generous \$15,000 donation to the community in memory of Phyllis Bouley Baxter. The board agreed by consensus to sign a letter of appreciation to the Baxter family for their generosity.

The board discussed using the funds to construct a gazebo at Elfin Lake and restoring the tennis courts.

G. Fredette said he would like the town's Recreation Committee to present the board with recommendations. T. Phillips indicated he would obtain estimates for a 16X24 concrete slab.

Elfin Lake Concession Workers. G. Fredette made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee's recommendation to hire Kelsey Eddy, Ethan Burkett, Chloe Burkett and Tim Heffernan as concession stand workers for the summer; T. Phillips seconded the motion. Motion

carried (5-0).

Other Business/Announcements. The board extended its appreciation to John McLallen and John Shaw for putting up the U. S. flags in the village.

The board directed S. Switzer to request the health officer review a junk complaint associated with Chris Rabtoy's property on Railroad Street.

N. Tift responded to an email from Ray Agostinelli wondering why the town had not towed junk vehicles owned by his tenant at his Route 103 property by indicating the town had no authority to tow vehicles in those circumstances.

By consensus, the board approved a three-year agreement with Vermont Elevator Inspection Services at a rate of \$175 annually.

The board by consensus approved continuation of short term disability for eligible town employees with VLCT's new carrier Lincoln Financial Group effective July 1. N. Tift indicated the town began offering short term disability when accumulation of sick pay was eliminated.

The board acknowledged the letter sent by Delta Dental indicating the rates would remain the same for 2015 and agreed by consensus to continue dental coverage.

The road crew is now working four 10-hour days with Fridays off. N. Tift indicated the road crew ought to avoid Friday overtime whenever possible.

The board was updated on the nearly complete culvert inventory. N. Tift made a motion to pay Riley Phillips \$10 an hour for the 24.5 hours he worked on the inventory; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0). T. Phillips abstained.

N. Tift made a motion to approve John Squier's request to barter his 24.5 hours of inventory work for 5 used tires at the town garage contingent upon the road foreman's approval; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date Approved: 06/02/14

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator