

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 4, 2014

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer and Lee Perry

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

Minutes. The July 21 meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by M. Tessier and seconded by R. Regula. Motion carried (4-0).

Selectboard Orders. M. Tessier made a motion to approve the pay orders totaling \$12,876.03 after \$45 was deducted for a VLCT payment; motion seconded by R. Regula. Motion carried (4-0).

Public Comments. None.

Bidding Policy. The Selectboard reviewed the town's bidding policy to determine whether it should apply to the Elfin Lake pavilion project featuring a concrete slab. N. Tift said funds were donated to the town for the project and no taxpayers' dollars were used. He noted the town received reasonable estimates from The Belden Company for the slab and r.k. Miles for construction materials. He noted the town would be doing a disservice to the family who donated the funds if a qualified contractor was not used resulting in inadequate construction.

T. Phillips said Belden would be able to do the excavation, pour the concrete and even seed the area. He said it would be difficult to find another company to do the project at the quoted \$9000 price. He added it could take a number of subcontractors to do the same thing and a clerk of the works would be needed to oversee the project.

M. Tessier said he did not want to set a precedent of not going out to bid on big ticket items.

N. Tift made a motion to re-award the contract to The Belden Company for the pavilion slab and r.k. Miles for construction materials; T. Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-1). M. Tessier cast the 'no' vote.

Firearm Complaint. Karen Holden's emails dated 7/27 and 8/1 regarding shooting at the Lohsen property on Hartsboro Road were reviewed by the board. N. Tift said there was no evidence or record of actual property damage or harm to any person. He said he was unaware of any illegal activity taking place. Town administrator Sandi Switzer was directed to contact Ms. Holden to inform her no action would be taken regarding her

complaint.

Reschedule September Select Board Meetings. The next regular meeting falls on a holiday, so the meetings next month were moved to September 8 and 22 – the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Property Tax Sales – Lee Perry’s Report. Delinquent tax collector Lee Perry reported he had sent 11 properties to attorney Kevin O’Toole in July for tax sales. Mr. Perry said the attorney sent 30-day notices to the property owners and three paid in full and one was making payments. He noted of the eight remaining properties, he expected a payment soon on one and the balances on two others were too low for the attorney to proceed with sales.

Mr. Perry noted last year the town declined to bid on two delinquent properties and he wanted to know if the town was willing to bid this year if no one else bid. He said VLCT thought it was beneficial for towns to bid on properties, but he added there were some cases when it would not be in the town’s best interest. Mr. Perry indicated he would provide the board with more information at the 8/18 meeting.

T. Phillips made a motion for the delinquent tax collector to proceed with tax sales and go to small claims court on two properties with amounts too low to go to tax sale; M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0).

Other Business/Announcements. After reviewing state statutes and information regarding garage sales provided by the zoning administrator and VLCT, the board indicated they would defer to the zoning administrator to pursue possible violations related to Paul Burroughs’ garage sales near Lidstone Lane.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by T. Phillips to post municipal committee vacancies in the three designated locations. The motion was approved (4-0).

M. Tessier indicated by the next meeting he would have a draft set of requirements contractors must meet if they want to do business with the town.

T. Phillips agreed to contact residents living near the recreation area regarding their concerns over vandalism and other activities at the ballfields.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Date Approved: 08/18/14

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator