

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
October 17, 2016

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Russ Lattuca, Joe Lattuca, Tammy Latucca, Scott Sendra, Amy Gilbert and Jeff Biasuzzi.

Selectboard Chair B. Brooks called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. Town Administrator added animal control issue at the request of N. Tift.

Minutes. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting on October 3, 2016. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 10/18/16 pay orders totaling \$52,072.75 after \$753.75 was added for Wright Appraisal Services. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. None.

Prudential Committee Appointment. B. Brooks told Prudential Committee member Scott Sendra the board wanted clarification regarding Charlie Gauthier's status as a member and treasurer of the Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department. He asked whether Mr. Gauthier would be allowed to participate in discussions and votes on fire department matters.

Mr. Sendra responded Mr. Gauthier had not been an active member for two years and was not on the fire department's roster or insurance. He said Mr. Gauthier had recovered sufficiently from health issues to serve on the Prudential Committee.

After further discussion, G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to appoint Charlie Gauthier to the Prudential Committee. B. Brooks and G. Fredette voted in the affirmative, R. Regula voted against the motion and N. Tift abstained.

R. Regula indicated she thought it was important for the appointee to be familiar with all aspects of Fire District #1 operations, including water and sewer.

Public Comments. Joe Lattuca raised the issue of meeting with the Board of Adjustment so he could address the BOA's August 2016 decision related to his Hull Avenue property. He indicated he spoke to someone at the Secretary of State's office

who advised him the Town Clerk or a member of the Selectboard could call for a meeting with the BOA.

B. Brooks indicated the four Selectboard members present served on the BOA and Mr. Lattuca could share his concerns with them.

Mr. Lattuca said he wanted to know if the BOA fully understood the information he was presenting. He said he would like to clarify a number of matters related to his case, including the deadline, criteria and the detailed description requirement for decisions.

G. Fredette responded the BOA's decision was final. N. Tift said the BOA had discussed the case at length and reviewed all criteria. He said there was no basis in state statute to abate Mr. Lattuca's taxes.

After further discussion featuring input from Russ Lattuca and Tammy Lattuca, the board by consensus agreed not to schedule a Board of Abatement meeting. Board members urged Joe Lattuca to write a response to the BOA's decision and mail it to each member. They further noted he could attend a future Board of Civil Authority meeting and present his information during the Public Comments section.

Amy Gilbert informed the Selectboard she received a notice from Delinquent Tax Collector Lee Perry when she missed the April 2015 property tax deadline. She said she paid the taxes, late fees and interest and requested Mr. Perry provide an explanation for the penalties. She said she sent letters and left telephone messages with the delinquent tax collector, but she said he did not respond. B. Brooks indicated Mr. Perry was an elected official and the board had no authority. N. Tift said voters rejected an article a few years ago that would have change the delinquent tax collector salary to an annual stipend. Ms. Gilbert suggested she may run against Mr. Perry in the future and, if elected, develop a new system for addressing delinquencies.

First Quarter Financials. The board reviewed FY'17 first quarter financials with Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon. It was noted most line items were operating around the 25 percent target.

Planning Commission Appointments. B. Brooks said Ralph Iovino and Kevin Mullin sent letters of interest for planning commission appointments. Planning Commissioner Jeff Biasuzzi said there were presently four members and an odd number was preferable. He offered to serve as an alternate.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to appoint Ralph Iovino and Kevin Mullin to the planning commission and appoint Jeff Biasuzzi as alternate. Motion carried (4-0).

Selectboard Comments. G. Fredette suggested the town make a donation to Front Porch Forum. N. Tift said he had given his Selectboard salary to FPF during the last fiscal year.

Animal Control Issue. There was a discussion regarding Rutland County Sheriff Department deputy Jessica Ryan LeBlanc's animal cruelty investigation related to a horse in town.

N. Tift said he thought the deputy was within her authority to launch the investigation, but he added it would have been prudent to involve the animal control officer before contacting a horse rescue group.

Other Business. The board discussed a logging truck using Railroad Street as an alternative to maneuvering the Routes 7 and 140 intersection. The board agreed they did not want to see log trucks on Railroad Street.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Date Approved: 11/07/16

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator