

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
November 3, 2014

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer

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

Agenda Amendments. N. Tift added Winter Maintenance workshop as an agenda item and T. Phillips added lot line adjustment to the agenda.

Minutes. The October 20 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent on a motion made by M. Tessier and seconded by R. Regula.

Selectboard Orders. G. Fredette moved to approve pay orders totaling \$1,604,844.68 after \$106 was added for a zoning administrator workshop; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker was not present, but the board discussed Mr. Baker's suggestion of adding a third person to lay gravel on the roads in April, May and part of June.

N. Tift said it was his opinion the board should consider including funds for a third road crew member at budget time. He said in the past the town operated with a three-man road crew and there was plenty of road maintenance to keep three people busy.

T. Phillips suggested inviting the road commissioner and road foreman to the next meeting.

N. Tift directed S. Switzer to contact a number of local contractors and request estimates for town garage bathroom renovations.

Public Comments. None

New England Power Link. The board reviewed the map and project description for New England Power Link's proposed transmission line from Canada to Ludlow with a section along Route 103. There is a 45-day comment period. The board took no action.

S. Switzer informed the board the company expressed interest in the Witham property on Route 103 as a possible staging area.

Trash Compactor. The board reviewed Casella's rental agreement for a new trash

compactor. R. Regula noted an error indicating the term should have been for ten years not five years. M. Tessier said there was nothing in the agreement that Casella would install the trash compactor and remove the old one. S. Switzer said the rental fee quoted by Casella was a fixed rate, however she said Exhibit A showed a rate escalator detailing annual rate increases.

The board tabled action on the agreement until Casella responded to those concerns.

Return to Work Policy. The board reviewed the Early Return to Work After Work Related Injury/Illness policy that VLCT recommended the town adopt to reduce workers' compensation claims.

After some discussion, G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to adopt the policy. Motion approved (5-0).

Public Forum. The board scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. to address recent vandalism in town and explore solutions, including revitalizing the Neighborhood Watch program.

Constable Jerry Tift and Sheriff Deputy Chris Stephenson are available to attend the forum on that night.

S. Switzer was directed to invite someone from the Vermont State Police to the forum.

T. Phillips and S. Switzer met with Gary Lieb from The Royal Group earlier in the evening to scope out possibilities for security systems at the recreation area and lake. T. Phillips told the board the scope of work would be sent out to local contractors for bids.

Winter Road Maintenance Workshop. Vermont Local Roads is sponsoring a 6-hour winter road maintenance workshop in Berlin on November 14.

The board agreed ongoing education in maintaining local roads was important, plus they agreed creating connections with state and regional transportation officials would be prudent.

N. Tift made a motion directing the road crew to attend the workshop, drive a town vehicle so no mileage would be paid, and receive \$10 each for lunch; T. Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Lot Line Adjustment. G. Fredette indicated at the onset of the discussion that T. Phillips should be directing the board as a citizen and not a board member with regard to his lot line adjustment request involving his Route 140W property and municipal land.

G. Fredette said he did not want there to be any impression the Selectboard was acting upon the request as a favor for a fellow board member.

T. Phillips recused himself as a member of the board for the discussion. He provided a map showing the new boundaries and he said he had spent \$4000 for the survey. Mr. Phillips said it would be an even swap of about 6/10th of an acre of land. The lot line adjustment would enable him to get power to his property without seeking a right-of-way through town land. He added it would clean up the boundaries of both parcels, give his portion of the lake road to the town and increase the municipal lot near the transfer station.

T. Phillips said there would be no cost to the town for the lot line adjustment. N. Tift moved to accept the lot line adjustment as described by T. Phillips; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0). T. Phillips abstained from voting.

T. Phillips indicated he would contact his attorney to have the necessary deed and paperwork completed.

Business/Announcements. Copies of VTrans highway mileage map have been provided to the Road Commissioner, Town Clerk and Selectboard. Any mileage changes must be made prior to July 1, 2015 in accordance with the state's ancient road law, Act 178.

The board discussed what to do with the insurance claim for recreation area vandalism. They agreed the funds should be kept separate from the general accounts, earmarked for recreation purposes and possibly put in a CD.

M. Tessier mentioned water was gathering near the pedestrian bridge on the Waldo Lane side. He asked if the road crew could address the issue.

The board agreed N. Tift should sign a letter to Shane Filskov of Vermont Railway requesting Route 140W and Hartsboro Road south rail crossings be repaired this year.

N. Tift agreed to attend the Unit Based Pricing for Trash Disposal forum at RRMC on November 12 along with Jim Regula and Art Nemeth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Minutes Approved: 11/17/14