

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
December 7, 2015

Chairman Nelson Tift called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Jerry Tift, Dave Fox, Stephen Benard, Trish Nash, Phil Baker, Michael McMahon, Joyce McMahon, Joyce Barbieri, Tom Wheeler, John McLallen, Jay White, Marc Pramuk, Erika Berner, Jeff Biasuzzi, Lynn Edmunds and Judy Edmunds

**Agenda Amendments.** None

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the November 16, 2015 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Orders.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve pay orders totaling \$25,382.73. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he would contact Green Mountain Kenworth regarding an invoice mistakenly sent to the town detailing repairs to the 2016 Kenworth, which is not in the town's possession.

Mr. Baker said he would be available for snowplowing or road maintenance in the event that Road Foreman Steve Lanfear was not available due to medical reasons.

Mr. Baker said he would be moving the trees piled near the transfer station within a week.

He raised the issue of road crew snowplowing hours and overtime during the winter months. The board agreed the road crew could decide for themselves when they needed rest and sleep breaks. R. Regula noted the road crew ought to divide overtime hours as evenly as possible.

There was a discussion regarding VOSHA compliance standards. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer indicated she had contacted various state agencies a few weeks ago regarding training. She said she planned to attend a training session in Brandon in January with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear that will be hosted by Rutland Regional Planning Commission. She added she was working with RRPC to schedule a February training session in Wallingford on the proper handling and labeling of hazardous waste.

M. Tessier suggested contacting the fire chief to assist with compliance issues.

The board reviewed an AOT letter regarding the annual reporting of special weight limits on roads and bridges. Board members indicated Van Wyck Bridge, Kent Farm Road and Tifft Road may have special weight limits. They directed the town administrator to ask Mr. Lanfear to assist with the report. N. Tift said special weight limits during mud season may need to be reported.

**Public Comments.** John McLallen asked who directed road crew activities. He said trees and brush along Creek Road needed to be cut back, potholes should be filled on Wallingford Pond Road and ditching work was needed near Wallingford Rescue on Maple Street.

Mr. Baker said there was a lot of brush that needed to be cut back. He said it was a manpower issue with a two-man road crew.

Mr. McLallen asked about winter maintenance of Wallingford Pond Road. G. Fredette noted the town maintained the road to the parking lot last winter.

**FY'17 Recreation.** Recreation Committee Chair Trish Nash informed the board the recreation budget would be level-funded with the exception of adding \$600 to Summer Recreation salaries bringing that line item up to \$10,000.

She said the committee would like to repair the tennis courts. She noted Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing estimated it would cost \$27,800 to repair both courts and replace the fence or an estimated \$23,700 to repair one court and replace fencing. Ms. Nash said the Recreation Committee would like both courts repaired. She noted the committee had about \$10,000 for the repairs.

N. Tift suggested putting an item on the March Town Meeting ballot.

**Vermont Community Foundation.** Jay White said the Masons were interested in investing proceeds from the sale of their building in order to establish a scholarship fund. He said the Masons would like to partner with the town and establish a fund through Vermont Community Foundation.

Mr. White said the Masons would give the money to the town to open the account and the town in turn would forward the funds to VCF with 5% annual disbursements used for scholarships. He said there would be no cost to the town and the funds would roll over to the municipality if the Masons disbanded.

Mr. White said the Masons were waiting to hear from attorney Jay Kenlan, who will formalize an agreement between the Masons and the town. He noted Mr. Kenlan was a member of the VCF Board of directors.

The board gave preliminary approval to proceed.

**Annual Report Dedication.** There was a brief discussion regarding the dedication, but no decision was made.

**Other Business.** The board took up Other Business while waiting for Sheriff Benard to arrive at the meeting.

There was a discussion regarding VLCT's recommendation that side railings be installed on the Town Hall front steps as well as extending the center railings. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to approve Vermont Forgings' estimate of \$780 to extend the center railings. Motion carried (5-0).

It was noted the Conservation Commission would like to increase the FY'17 budget from \$500 to \$1500 to reflect the work being done at Stone Meadow and elsewhere in town. The board agreed by unanimous consent.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to send a letter to Henry and Marilyn Burnham regarding a barking dog complaint and a letter to the Dennis Smith Estate about junk vehicles on Florence Avenue. Motion carried (5-0).

There was a brief discussion regarding moving the gate on Elfin Lake Road closer to Route 140W. The board reviewed a map of a Fernfield Farms' access road. Mr. Baker agreed to explore options. N. Tift cautioned the town did not want to spend a lot of money to move the gate.

**Selectboard Concerns.** G. Fredette said the Scholarship Committee wanted to update the criteria for distributing annual scholarships. He said Superintendent David Younce was drafting the criteria.

**Creek Road Bridge.** S. Switzer suggested contacting Enman Kesselring Engineering to request an estimate for the firm to inspect and provide a written report on the Creek Road Bridge. The board directed her to seek an estimate.

The board approved signing a letter to Rutland Regional Transportation Council urging the Creek Road Bridge be added to the top of the county's transportation priority list.

Joyce Barbieri asked whether the Whitcomb property could be used to bypass the bridge. Mr. Baker said it was not a feasible alternate route.

**FY'17 Public Safety.** Sheriff Stephen Benard said the cost to maintain 20 hour per week patrols in town would increase to \$37,440 next year due to the COPS Grant expiring. He said the town was paying approximately \$17,400 for similar coverage this year.

N. Tift asked about the availability of dispatch services with the coverage. The sheriff said they would be willing to work something out with the town should coverage remain the same. He said the days of free dispatch service would soon be ending.

Jerry Tift said he would need to modify his recent letter of request to the town in light of changes for dispatch services.

The board discussed public safety options, including the cost of purchasing a used vehicle along with insurance, workers' compensation and liability expenses.

**Cross Walk Grant.** Planning Commission Chair Erika Berner said the commission was considering applying for a grant for cross walks and sidewalk maintenance. However, she said the limited funds available would not allow for many sidewalk repairs, so the commission would be focusing on cross walks.

Ms. Berner said they were considering cross walks near the daycare and post office on Main Street.

Zoning Administrator and Planning Commissioner Jeff Biasuzzi said new cross walks, repainting existing cross walks and signage would be part of the grant application. He added the commission would like have a bus stop shelter installed as well.

Ms. Barbieri questioned whether the state would require the town to takeover a section of Route 7 if the town wanted authority over traffic safety by installing cross walks and signage. The town administrator provided Ms. Barbieri with an email dated 11/24/15 response from AOT's Amy Gamble to that effect.

The board gave the planning commission the authority to discuss the plan with AOT officials to find out whether it would be feasible.

**Troy Minerals Solar Project in South Wallingford.** Mr. Biasuzzi distributed a memo he drafted to the board regarding items to be addressed in the town's response to the Public Service Board related to Troy Mineral's application for a 150kw solar project in South Wallingford on the east side of Route 7.

He explained the town ought to seek party status, outline screening preferences, request decommissioning details and even request energy credits.

After further discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette directing Mr. Biasuzzi to work with the town administrator in drafting a letter to the PSB. Motion carried (5-0).

Ms. Barbieri said she had reviewed the application and maps and wanted to know when the industrial zone in South Wallingford had expanded beyond the boundaries indicated on the 1971 maps. She then read the Minutes from the Planning Commission's meeting on 11/10/14 indicating a desire to adjust industrial boundaries to match property boundaries of two industrial properties.

Tom Wheeler said this issue was raised about 5 or 6 years ago and the town agreed not to expand the industrial zone.

Mr. Biasuzzi said the narrative in the zoning regulations approved in August did not match the industrial zone on the map and, therefore, was eliminated. He said a solar project could be installed in an industrial zone or commercial district with a conditional use permit.

Ms. Barbieri urged the board to explore what she considered to be industrial zone discrepancies.

**Other Business/Announcements.** The town administrator noted Rutland Regional Planning Commission dues would be level-funded at \$925.

The board revisited the FY'17 Public Safety budget. After some discussion, they agreed to level fund line #5402 Constable Mileage at \$2400 and line #5408 Animal Control Officer at \$1200. The board increased line #5406 Special Officers to \$50,400 for a total FY'17 Public Safety Budget of \$54,000.

The board by unanimous consent approved the FY'17 Recreation budget of \$28,600.

The board by unanimous consent agreed the Recreation Committee must submit a petition for a ballot item signed by 5% of the voters seeking funds for tennis court maintenance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Date Approved: 12/21/15

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator