

Wallingford Selectboard Minutes*

***These are unofficial Minutes subject to the approval at the next regular meeting.**

April 7, 2014

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Ellen Frederick, Joel Baker, Julie Baker, and Erin Mansfield.

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

Minutes. The March 17 meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by G. Fredette and seconded by R. Regula. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Orders. G. Fredette made a motion to approve the pay orders totaling \$215,528.27; motion seconded by M. Tessier. Motion carried (3-0).

G. Fredette asked whether payment #3 for The Belden Company's retaining wall project was the final payment. Town administrator Sandi Switzer responded there was a final payment of nearly \$15,000 due after the company completes the project. G. Fredette said the fence behind the school needs to be replaced.

He commented VTel's monthly telephone and DSL expenses of \$324.24 were costly. M. Tessier said he would look into possible savings.

Junk Complaint. Ann Jarrosak contacted the town about what she characterized as grease and rust running from a neighbor's property across her land on Westview Drive as well as other properties before emptying into a culvert and eventually into a brook.

The board directed S. Switzer to contact the town's health officer to investigate the matter. Road Commissioner Phil Baker agreed to inspect the culvert.

S. Switzer informed the board a representative from the state's Judicial Bureau indicated Ferris O'Connell did not pay any of the fines issued by the

town for violating the municipal junk ordinance at a property he was renting on Route 103. The representative advised the town not to take action at this point while the Judicial Bureau pursues the matter.

Trail Policy. Board members reviewed a draft Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns Trail Policy. G. Fredette noted the draft policy would give the Selectboard flexibility in determining vehicle usage, speed and weight limits on trails.

Ellen Fredericks said the Trail Policy would not address people with right-of-ways through their properties leading to trails. She said the ATV, truck and snowmobile traffic using Homer Stone Trail had adversely impacted her property. Ms. Fredericks said no one had ever shown her they had rights to access her property.

M. Tessier responded the town owns the right-of-way to the trail so it was open to the public and he said the town could not landlock camp owners who use the trail to access their properties. He said the town could explore limiting access to the Homer Stone Trail to the southern entrance of the Frederick property.

Ms. Frederick noted a bulldozer accessing the trail for a South Wallingford Water Company project had damaged her driveway. G. Fredette said that was a private company and advised her to deal directly with them.

Joel Baker said people could access their camps from Wallingford Pond Road or Mount Tabor and he suggested the town close the route through the Frederick property. Julie Baker suggested Homer Stone Trail only be used as a hiking trail.

After further discussion, the board agreed to invite snowmobile and ATV club representatives to the next meeting as well as a representative from Green Mountain National Forest, which borders the area.

Board members also agreed to consider what, if any, weight and speed limits should be included in a Trail Policy. T. Phillips added the policy could require a permit for a vehicle over the weight limit along with a bond in case of property damage.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Green Mountain Kenworth would be installing a couple of panels on the new truck

that should have been included in the original package. He said Kenworth would also be installing new lights as part of a recall.

P. Baker said he researched costs to replace the underground fuel storage tank. He said a double-lined 2000-gallon tank would cost about \$9000. He said the town should consider an encased 1000-gallon tank set on cement blocks above the flood line.

T. Phillips said the town would have to pump out the existing tank, clean it and have the soil around it tested. He added there would be some cost for the sludge disposal.

P. Baker indicated he would follow-up on a report that a damaged culvert was causing water issues at George Schoeppler's property on Haven Hill Road.

Rose Regula asked the road commissioner to direct the road crew to remove the tires from the transfer station.

G. Fredette informed P. Baker there was a large hole near the corner of Circular Drive.

Building Use Request. T. Phillips made a motion to approve Gilbert Hart Library's request to use the second floor of Town Hall on April 11 for a Vermont Reads Book Wonder presentation; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

T. Phillips made a motion to deny a request to use Town Hall for 8 hours for a wedding and reception; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Scholarship Appointment. G. Fredette agreed to be the board's representative to the scholarship committee.

Training Workshop. T. Phillips moved to approve John Tiffany's request to attend a NEMRC workshop at a cost of \$125; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Noise Complaint. The board reviewed Karen Holden's letter regarding target shooting at the Lohsen property on Hartsboro Road. G. Fredette said residents were allowed to shoot at targets. T. Phillips suggested Ms. Holden contact the game warden to request safety zone signs be posted.

The board agreed to wait to see if Ms. Holden's letter to the Lohsens would resolve the matter.

3rd Quarter Financials. Town Clerk/Treasurer Julie Sharon reported the \$20,000 included in the FY'14 highway expenses to repair a retaining wall did not show up on line #5335 for Total Tropical Storm Irene due to an excel error.

She said that could mean starting FY'15 in the negative, but she added higher than expected income for FY'14 ordinance fines and delinquent property taxes could offset it. J. Sharon added some expenses, such as legal fees and audit costs, were lower than budgeted.

Liquor Licenses. G. Fredette made a motion to approve all local liquor license applications; the motion was seconded by T. Phillips. Motion carried (5-0).

VLCT 2014 Pacif Equipment Grant. The board approved by consensus a VLCT 2014 Pacif Equipment Grant application for chainsaw chaps and helmets and Road Work Ahead signage totaling \$666.80 with the town responsible for a 50 percent share.

Other Announcements/Business. In response to Bob Crosby's complaint, the board indicated anyone witnessing pet owners not adhering to the animal control policy with regard to animal waste ought to report names to the dog warden for enforcement.

The board suggested contacting Fire Chief Stephane Goulet to find out if he was interested in pursuing a dry hydrant grant.

P Baker said he would meet with S. Switzer to review the possibility of seeking a Better Backroad erosion grant.

P. Baker said he would contact Chris Waterman at Green Mountain Kenworth and request he bring any software updates for the new truck when he visits the town garage to install lights as part of the recall.

By consensus, the board approved the purchase of a trac phone and minutes to be used by any part-time road crew workers.

Executive Session. G. Fredette moved the board enter executive session for personnel matters at 8:25 p.m.; T. Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

G. Fredette made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:47 p.m., M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date Approved: 04/21/14

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator