

Wallingford Selectboard Minutes*

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

January 6, 2014

Select Board Members Present: Bill Brooks, Nelson Tift, Gary Fredette, Tom Phillips, and Mark Tessier .

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Stephen Benard, John McClallen.

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

Minutes. The December 16th meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by N. Tift and seconded by G. Fredette. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Orders. N. Tift made a motion to approve the pay orders totaling \$16,704.28; motion seconded by M. Tessier. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker informed the board former road crew member John Squier would be available to assist the highway crew 3 to 4 hours a day in the mornings. He said the road crew needed more help clearing the roads during that time. Mr. Baker added hiring Mr. Squier should reduce road crew overtime.

T. Phillips agreed the objective for hiring a part-time person would be to improve the roads, reduce overtime and maintain 40 hour work weeks for fulltime employees as often as possible.

The Select Board by unanimous consent agreed to hire Mr. Squier for 20 hours a week.

B. Brooks made the motion to pay Mr. Squier \$15.59 per hour (the same rate of pay he was earning when he left the road crew); N. Tift seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Mr. Baker noted gravel from the driveway installed for Pat Rice had plugged the nearby culvert and he said it needed to be cleared before the spring thaw. T. Phillips questioned whether the town ought to adopt standards or guidelines for driveways and culverts. He said another consideration would be to impose a minor fee for the road commissioner to inspect driveways upon completion. No action was taken.

Public Comments. John McClallen requested the road crew plow Wallingford Pond Road to the parking lot. G. Fredette indicated it was necessary to clear the road for emergency response vehicles. P. Baker said he would advise the road crew on the matter.

Mr. McClallen also urged the town to address brush hanging over the back roads, like Hartsboro and Pond Roads.

Sheriff Stephen Benard. B. Brooks informed the sheriff the town was not seeing as much of a police presence as expected with the 20 hours of patrols per week arrangement. He questioned whether the property checks detailed on monthly activity sheets were taking up patrol times. Mr. Benard responded property checks were a service provided by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department as part of the contract with no additional cost to the town. He said Deputy Chris Stevenson has been hired as the Clarendon/Wallingford officer and he has been active in the community.

G. Fredette suggested the officer spend more time on radar patrols, especially on Main and School Streets. N. Tift noted not many tickets were issued by the sheriff's department over the past several months. He added tickets ought to be written for the exact speeds and not give motorists exceeding speed limits by 10 m.p.h. or more a break. Mr. Benard said he would give a directive to the officer to shift away from back road patrols to radar enforcement in the village and in the school zone.

T. Phillips asked about using a traffic device that flash motorists' speeds as a way to slow down traffic. Mr. Benard said his department was seeking grant funds for the units.

Transfer Station Lighting. Glenn Eno offered two options for improving the lighting at the town's transfer station. He suggested 2 26-watt LED fixtures with adjustable tilt in the range of \$800 to \$900 with \$175 rebate per fixture. The other option was to replace flood lamps with LED equivalents at a cost of \$250 to \$325.

T. Phillips made a motion to replace the whole fixture for a cost of up to \$900; G. Fredette seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).

Dept. of Taxes Equalization Study. The Department of Taxes equalization study report shows the Town's equalized education property values at \$225,974,000 a coefficient of dispersion of 15.47%, and a common level of appraisal of 105.28% effective 1/1/14. B. Brooks said the town was still within the boundaries so a reappraisal was not necessary.

FY '15 Revenue Budget. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon explained revenue from Ordinance fines totaled \$4800 for the first six months of the year. B. Brooks said the town was on pace to receive \$10,000 in fines. N. Tift advised the town not to budget anything higher than \$10,000 for #4503 Ordinance fines.

N. Tift requested the town appoint him as a special police officer with no salary requirements, so he could issue tickets when necessary just as he does in neighboring Clarendon. T. Phillips made a motion to appoint N. Tift as special police officer; M. Tessier seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-0). N. Tift abstained.

B. Brooks directed Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to increase Zoning Permit revenue #4513 by \$1000 to \$2500.

FY '15 Administration Budget. #5000 was level-funded at \$150; #5001 was level-funded at \$4300; #5002-A Lister Salaries was increased \$500 to \$18,000; #5002-B Lister Expenses was increased \$400 to \$4500 to include funds for a secure filing cabinet.

The board tabled #5002-C Tax Maps until more information is obtained. #5003 Town Administrator was reduced \$5614.54 to \$18,600 but included a 3

% raise; #5004 Zoning Administrator Salary was level-funded at \$4000; #5004-A Zoning Expenses was level-funded \$200.

The board agreed on 3% raises for #5005 Town Clerk/Treasurer, #5006 Road Crew, # 5007 Road Crew overtime, # 5008 Transfer Station Attendants, #5009 Assistant Town Clerks and #5010 Road Commissioner.

Line #5012 Delinquent Tax Collector was reduced \$5000 to \$12,000; #5026 Fire Warden was level-funded \$200; #5540 Miscellaneous Expense was reduced to 0.

FY '15 Insurance. #5025 - Estimated 5% percent increase in Dental, Eye, Disability and Property plus the platinum health plan with 5% increase for the first 6 months of 2015, along with \$1000 for each employees HRAs totals \$83,145 which is a 7.98% increase or \$6145 over last year.

In other budget business, the board agreed with J. Sharon's recommendation that ##4517 Recording Fees of \$18,000 ought to be split between \$16,200 for recording and \$1800 for a restoration fund for the preservation of public records.

Route 103 Junk Complaint. Ray Agostinelli wrote to the town about numerous unregistered vehicles owned by his tenant Ferris O'Connell at #689 Route 103. Deputy Chris Stevenson investigated and provided a list of registered and unregistered vehicles.

B. Brooks said it appeared Mr. O'Connell was in violation of the town's junk ordinance and directed S. Switzer to send a letter informing him he had 30 days to come into compliance.

Next Select Board Meeting. The next regular meeting falls on a holiday, so the meeting date was moved to Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Other Business/Announcements. REDC's request for the town to become a member with a dues of \$250 was denied.

The board agreed to dedicate this year's annual Town Report to longtime Town Clerk and Treasurer Joyce Barbieri and include the resolution adopted at the meeting last October.

The Town Hall copier cannot be adjusted to switch out of scan as the primary function into copying as the primary function. Therefore, the board agreed to increase FY '15 Town Government #5114 by \$1000 to \$16,000 for a new copier.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Date Approved:12/21/14

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator