

**2016 Town of Wallingford
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2016
Wallingford Elementary School**

Town Moderator A. Jay Kenlan opened the annual town meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift introduced Selectboard members Gary Fredette, Mark Tessier, Rose Regula, and Bill Brooks.

The moderator read the warning as follows: The legal voters of the Town of Wallingford, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Wallingford Elementary School on Monday evening, February 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following articles. The polls will be open on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall for the purpose of voting Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE I. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot: a Town Moderator, Grand Juror, Town Agent and First Constable, each for one-year terms; two Selectboard members, one for two years and one for three years; an Auditor for three years; a Lister for three years; a Delinquent Tax Collector for three years; and a Trustee of Public Funds for three years.

ARTICLE II. Shall the Town vote to have scholarships provided under Title 16 V.S.A., Section 2535, the same to be applied for on or before April 29, 2016 at the Rutland South Supervisory Union? Cindy Daubenspeck made the motion, which was seconded by Monica Rugg. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III. Shall the Town vote to have one-half (1/2) of the fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before October 17, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. and the remaining one-half of the fiscal year 2017 property taxes and fire protection taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before April 17, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.? Payments are physically due in the Town Office; post-marked dates will not be accepted. Tom Dansereau made the motion, which was seconded by Nan Dubin. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,059,828.20 for the General Operation of the town, with an amount not to exceed \$728,520.13 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2017? Chris Dinnan made the motion, which was seconded by Erika Berner.

Nelson Tift reported that the Administration budget reflects an increase of \$6,850 that mainly funds the Lister Salaries because the town went from an hourly-paid assessor to contracting

with Wright Appraisal Company. In addition to 1-3% raises, some Transfer Station part-time employee salaries will be brought more in line with their experience, when compared to summer employees who are paid minimum wage, which will be \$10/hour in 2017.

Town Government Operations increased \$4,450, primarily because the County of Rutland tax increased almost \$2,000. A new line item for Workplace Safety, to address employee health and safety issues as required by VOSHA, was added in the amount of \$750.

Donations include an increase of \$3,869 due to the following: Gilbert Hart Library requested a \$2,000 increase, the Wallingford Rescue Squad asked for \$1,000 more, American Red Cross was increased by \$500, and a new request of \$300 for Child First Advocacy was included.

The Public Safety budget increased by \$23,000 to \$54,000, largely due to the expiration of the COPS grant that helped fund Rutland County Sheriff Department patrols of 20 hours a week in the community over the past three years. The grant will expire June 30th, so the town will now have to pay the full amount to maintain the level of police patrols.

\$1,000 was added to the Recreation budget for recreation field maintenance expenses.

The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE V. Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford vote to approve raising a sum of up to \$22,300.00 in property taxes for the rehabilitation of the tennis courts at the recreation fields off Meadow Street? Chris Dinnan made the motion; Margaret Soule seconded it.

Kelly Dilonno asked if a survey had been taken on the tennis courts usage and will the repair be done to one court or both. Debbie Scranton testified that she used to play tennis there and with all the improvements done in the past few years at the lake, playground, and Stone Meadow, the tennis courts are the final piece that needs attention. Chris Dinnan added that he would support this article at an estimated extra \$20 on his tax bill.

Ann Day asked how the Selectboard plans to protect new tennis courts from vandalism, citing the graffiti that occurred on the basketball court and backboards a few years ago. Nelson Tift replied that vandalism will never go away, and the Sheriff and Constable do their best to patrol Wallingford. He urged residents to report any suspicious activities to law enforcement. Monica Rugg added that adults, who are at the recreation field with their children, should take action as well.

The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money from time to time as may be required? Bob Soule made the motion; Rob Carey seconded it. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VII. Shall the Town approve the Reports of the Town Officer as submitted? Erika Berner made the motion; Tom Dansereau seconded it. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VIII. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

State Representative David Potter spoke briefly on ignition interlock devices whose purpose is to prevent drivers from driving while intoxicated; work being done by the Legislature in regards to the fines schedule for driving with a suspended license; and the consideration of whether to establish saliva testing as a new tool for law enforcement when determining when motorists are driving under the influence of range of different drugs.

With no other business to come before the body, at 8:19 p.m. Mr. Kenlan asked for a motion to adjourn the Town portion of the meeting. Tom Dansereau moved to adjourn the Town portion of the meeting; Nan Dubin seconded it. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Submitted: _____ Town Moderator

_____ Selectboard Chair

_____ Town Clerk