

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
January, 4 2016

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, Phil Baker, Jeff Biasuzzi, Marlene Allen, Stephen Chmielewski, Dave Ballou and Lee Perry

**Agenda Amendments.** Delinquent Tax Collector report on Tax Sales

**Minutes.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the December 21, 2015 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Orders.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to approve pay orders totaling \$21,015.89. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker relayed a concern from a citizen regarding West Hill Road and indicated residents should contact him directly with any concerns about icy or slippery roads.

Mr. Baker said the box was being installed on the 2016 Kenworth in the next few weeks. He noted he had inspected the Elfin Lake Road gate and said it could be relocated closer to Route 140W at no cost to the town other than road crew labor. He said he had telephone poles that could be used for supports. Mr. Baker reviewed a property map of the lake road and adjacent properties with the Selectboard to ensure no right-of-ways would be blocked.

The road commissioner said a Sugar Hill Road culvert replacement project may fit the requirements for a Better Backroads grant. He agreed to provide cost estimates for the project.

Mr. Baker said he was exploring purchasing new plastic culverts that were double-walled and more durable.

There was a brief discussion about Tift Road and whether action needed to be taken to secure the bank or relocate a small section of road about a third of a mile up the road from Route 7. Mr. Baker said he would inspect Tift Road with road foreman Steve Lanfear.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer indicated she would be attending a VOSHA Compliance training workshop with Mr. Lanfear on January 6 in Brandon.

N. Tift noted S. Switzer had been compiling Safety Data Sheets for the town garage.

**FY'17 Lister.** The Selectboard reviewed the FY'17 lister budget of \$39,005 prepared by lister Dave Ballou and assessor Lisa Wright Garcia. The budget included \$22,730 for salaries, \$4700 for expenses, \$1575 for tax maps, and \$10,000 for the reappraisal fund.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve a lister budget of \$39,005 for FY'17. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Ballou informed the board he would be out of town for most of the summer and unavailable for grievances and site visits. He said town officials should be recruiting citizens with knowledge of the position to run for office when his term expires next year.

**FY'17 Revenue.** N. Tift suggested \$12,000 in Ordinance Fines line #4503. Following Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi's recommendation, the board agreed on \$4,000 in Zoning Permit revenue for line #4513. The board agreed on \$14,000 in Transfer Station Fees line #4514 and \$1,000 in Scrap Metal/Recycling line #4515.

**FY'17 Insurance.** The board reviewed a worksheet of anticipated municipal insurance expenses including projections by Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided insurance expenses to date for the FY'16 budget. By unanimous consent, the board agreed on an FY'17 Insurance budget of \$99,220.

**Public Comments.** Troy Minerals, Inc. owner Stephen Chmielewski distributed a preliminary draft of screening for the ground mounted solar array project proposed for his property in South Wallingford. He said he would not be committing to an actual proposal until the arrays were installed. He indicated in response to the town's letter to the Public Service board, solar panels would not be left on the property after the life expectancy of the arrays had expired. He said he would decommission if and when necessary. He said municipal energy credits would not apply for this project since all power generated would be used by the quarry.

SameSun's Marlene Allen stressed 100 percent of the power generated by the project would be used at the quarry filling 85 percent of the quarry's power needs.

Board members thanked Mr. Chmielewski for working with the town on screening and decommissioning concerns.

**Tax Sales.** Delinquent Tax Collector outlined upcoming tax sales scheduled on January 19 for the Nellie Bixby, Spencer Nimtz, Douglas Duvall and Earl Wade properties. He reported the minimum bids required for each property. He asked whether the town would have a representative at the tax sale to offer minimum bids.

After some discussion and a review of the property maps, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to have R. Regula represent the town at the tax sales and offer minimum bids if necessary. Motion carried (5-0).

**Dog Bite.** There was a brief discussion regarding a dog bite incident at the Paula Baker home in town. The board reviewed the municipal ordinance regarding the definition of a vicious dog and the steps for a dog hearing. The board agreed to address the matter further if a written complaint was filed.

**Building Use Request.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette approving Vermont Coverts request to use Town Hall for a climate change workshop on January 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

**FY'17 Administration.** Mr. Biasuzzi noted he was up for reappointment in February. He provided details of the Cumberland Farms permit application and he indicated he does not anticipate more work hours in the coming year.

The board agreed to discuss salaries later in the meeting.

**Public Comments.** By unanimous consent, the board approved drafts of the annual Town Report Dedication and the Selectboard Report.

The board also approved the road crew's credit application for Pete's Tire Barn.

After reviewing an email from Joyce Barbieri, the board directed the town administrator to forward the document to the planning commission and request the commission research the history of the Industrial Zone in South Wallingford.

The board declined a request by Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi to have Wallingford share the cost of his training in safety compliance matters with two other towns. Total training costs with travel and lodging was estimated at over \$1700.

**Selectboard Concerns.** G. Fredette asked if there were any other steps the town could take to address ongoing barking dog complaints lodged by Jerry Florance. N. Tift suggested contacting the Judicial Bureau to request a hearing on the three unpaid tickets issued to the dog's owner, Casey Burnham. He directed S. Switzer to contact Jen Morse at the Judicial Bureau.

**FY'17 Administration.** The board reviewed a worksheet of salaries with increase totals for full and part-time employees ranging from 1 to 4 percent.

There was extensive discussion regarding employee wages in comparison to minimum wage requirements, fulltime wages that included benefits and part-time wages with no benefits, and a request by head lister Dave Ballou to increase lister hourly rates.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to increase transfer station wages by \$2 per person, set the head lister hourly rate at \$14.50, set lister hourly rates at \$12, 1 percent raises for fulltime employees (town clerk/treasurer, road foreman and road crew member) and 3 percent raises for part-time employees (town administrator, town clerk assistants, zoning administrator and road crew). Motion carried (5-0).

By unanimous consent, the board set Road Crew Overtime line #5007 at \$10,000, Road Commissioner stipend line #5010 at \$1,500, Zoning Administrator salary line #5004 at \$4,500, Zoning Administrator expenses line #5004-A at \$300 and Delinquent Tax Collector salary line #5012 at \$10,000.

**Other Business/Announcements.** None

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator