

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
January 29, 2019

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

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Lynn Edmunds and Bruce Duchesne.

Chair B. Brooks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Agenda Amendments.** Sign revised Equipment Note. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked on Lynn Edmund's behalf to add Australian Ballot articles to the agenda. Board members agreed on the agenda amendments.

**FEMA Reimbursement Funds.** B. Brooks indicated the FY'20 budget must account for the FEMA reimbursement funds. He said board members previously agreed to use \$20,000 to reduce the amount to be raised in taxes.

The board chair shared Road Foreman's Steve Lanfear's suggestion to use funds for paving and a down payment on a loader. He said Road Commissioner Phil Baker recommended using it for paving, gravel, a down payment on a loader, sand and roadside mowing.

M. Tessier indicated support to establish a sinking fund in the event of an equipment or road maintenance emergency. N. Tift suggested \$30,000 in paving and the remainder in a sinking fund.

There was a discussion regarding wording for the Town Meeting Warning to establish a Highway Sinking Fund reserve fund. By unanimous consent, the Board agree the purpose of the sinking fund was for Equipment Replacement and/or Highway Emergency Repairs.

After further discussion, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to add \$30,000 to the paving budget and ask voters to approve an article on the Town Meeting Warning establishing a Highway Sinking Fund reserve fund in the amount of \$109,620.58. Motion carried (4-0).

The board by unanimous consent agreed the wording for Article IV on the Town Meeting Warning should include \$1,245,244.50 for the General Operation of the Town with an amount not to exceed \$740,565.54 to be raised in property taxes.

**Revised Equipment Note.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to sign Community Bank's revised Equipment Note for the new one ton truck due to a bank error in not including the payment schedule on the original note. Motion carried (4-0).

**Public Comments.** Lynn Edmunds asked whether the Board would add two advisory articles to the Town Meeting Warning regarding the Australian Ballot method of voting for budgets and special articles. He explained more residents would be aware of the intention to discuss the matter at Town Meeting if the articles were on the Warning.

There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the Australian Ballot. B. Brooks said voting from the floor gave the Select Board the flexibility to work around things from time to time. Bruce Duchesne said he favored the Australian ballot because he was unable to attend floor meetings when he worked the second shift and, therefore, missed budget votes. Mr. Edmunds said he favored it because of outside influences on municipalities.

The town administrator said Vermont League of Cities and Towns discouraged municipalities from including advisory items on the Warning.

B. Brooks asked whether Mr. Edmunds would be satisfied if the topics were discussed under "Other Business" at Town Meeting. Mr. Edmunds agreed and he asked if information about these topics could be included in the municipal newsletter prior to Town Meeting. Board members agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.  
Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Date Approved: 02/04/19