

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
March, 2017

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker and Michael McMahon.

**Selectboard Reorganization.** S. Switzer conducted nominations for Board chair. B. Brooks nominated G. Fredette, but G. Fredette declined. N. Tift nominated B. Brooks as chair and R. Regula seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved (4-0). B. Brooks did not vote.

B. Brooks conducted nominations for vice chair. G. Fredette nominated N. Tift as vice chair. M. Tessier seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved (4-0). N. Tift did not vote.

By unanimous consent, the board designated the Rutland Herald as the official newspaper for the publication of legal notices and set regular Selectboard meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall. The board by unanimous consent adopted Roberts Rules of Orders.

**Agenda Amendments.** Town Administrator Sandi Switzer added lister office printer and basement window security measures to the agenda.

**Minutes.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting on February 27, 2017. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 03/21/17 pay orders totaling \$44,300.27 after \$495 was added for Wright Appraisal Services. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the town should consider in the near future a third person year round for the road crew. He said he would discuss with John Squier is availability throughout the summer, fall and next winter.

Mr. Baker said the town administrator assisted him with Better Road grant applications for Seward Hill Road and Bear Mountain Road. The road commissioner provided an overview of each project. He noted Seward Hill would require an easement from Art Seward. S. Switzer said she included funds for legal costs to obtain the easement in the grant application.

Mr. Baker said a culvert on North End Drive may have collapsed and he would investigate. In response to an inquiry from the board, Mr. Baker said he would find out if the road crew was plowing Wallingford Pond Road to the parking lot.

**State Paving Grant Application.** The board reviewed state paving grant applications for Route 140W (\$166,400) and Creek Road (\$83,200) that require 20% local match. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift approving both grant applications. Motion carried (5-0).

**Annual Financial Plan.** The board reviewed the Annual Financial Plan prepared by VTrans Brian Sanderson. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette authorizing the board to sign the Annual Financial Plan. Motion carried (5-0)>

**Roadside Mowing.** Board members reviewed the two estimates obtained for annual roadside mowing. HP Fairfield quoted \$2950 for 40 hours and Abele Tractor quoted \$1500 for 40 hours plus trucking.

S. Switzer said she had been in discussions with the town of Castleton in an effort to coordinate mowing schedules to reduce trucking fees for the Abele Tractor mower.

Mr. Baker said he would be willing to truck the mower from Castleton to Wallingford and possibly back to Albany.

By consensus, the board agreed to rent the mower from Abele Tractor for two weeks in early July.

**Liquor Licenses.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve annual liquor license applications for Victorian Inn, Mac's Convenience Store, Midway Oil Corp., Wallingford Country Store & Deli, Cumberland Farms, and Sal's South. Motion carried (5-0).

**Public Comments.** None.

**Cell Tower Agreement.** AT&T sent a letter outlining a new program to evaluate terms and conditions of all cell tower leases coming up for renewal. The company noted the lease with the town was set to be renewed in three years and noted an intention to create a new agreement. The company requested a response within 60 days of the letter dated March 3. The board agreed to send a letter to AT&T indicating the town's willingness to review a new lease proposal to take effect when the current lease expires.

**Fire District #1 Bulk Mail Permit Request.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve Fire District #1's request to use the town's bulk mail permit to distribute annual reports. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Hall Electrical Updates.** The two bids submitted by Rob Stubbins Electrical and General Contractor and Slate Valley Electrical, Inc. for Town Hall electrical updates were reviewed by the Board.

After some discussion, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to award Town Hall electrical updates to Slate Valley Electrical, Inc. Motion carried (5-0).

**Junk Vehicle Complaint.** S. Switzer informed the board Constable Jerry Tift had spoken to Ferris O'Connell regarding the unregistered vehicles at his Route 103 property and Mr. O'Connell could not provide a timeframe for moving or screening the vehicles. S. Switzer noted the 30-day deadline to respond to the Town's Notice of Violation was March 7, 2017.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula directing the town administrator to initiate the municipal ticket process. Motion carried (5-0).

**VT Alert.** Board members reviewed a draft letter to VT Alert officials indicating the town would like to participate. After some discussion, board members agreed to table the matter until the next meeting ensure Fire District #1 officials were in agreement.

**Appointments.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to appoint Bastian Auer and Eileen Tessier to the Recreation Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to reappoint all volunteers whose terms expired in 2017 along with Jeff Biasuzzi as zoning administrator, G. Fredette as scholarship committee member and Michael McMahon as a new planning commissioner. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board directed the town administrator to send Keith Shelvey a letter of appreciation for his service on the recreation committee. The board did not reappoint Mr. Shelvey.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Nelson Tift and Jerry Tift as special police officers. Motion carried (5-0).

Michael McMahon provided an overview of his research into zoning districts as amended by the planning commission since 1972. He said he found a number of discrepancies, specifically with regard to industrial zones. Mr. McMahon questioned the legality of amending zoning regulations by Selectboard votes rather than by Australian ballot voting.

**Lister Letters.** By consensus, the Board approved signing letters of appreciation to the Board of Listers for their service to the community.

**Constable Radios.** This matter was tabled until a radio could be used on a trial basis to ensure reliable performance before purchasing the \$2200 unit after a trade-in.

**Selectboard Concerns.** G. Fredette mentioned a concern regarding a child living at the Route 103 Witham property without running water and sewer systems. S. Switzer

responded she provided the Health Officer with contact information for Mill River Union High School personnel who could assist with this matter.

The board briefly discussed possible expenses to be incurred at that property if the property owner does not redeem it during the one-year period following the tax sale.

**Other Business.** The board directed the town administrator to seek advice from Vermont League of Cities and Towns to address possible zoning discrepancies as well as Australian ballot voting for adopting zoning amendments.

**Lister Printer.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier authorizing Assessor Lisa Wright to purchase either the \$299 or the \$429.99 office printer of her choice. Motion carried (5-0).

**Basement Windows.** S. Switzer informed the board Mac Steel in Rutland could provide custom pieces at an estimated cost of \$250 for basement windows as security measures in response to break-ins at Town Halls in neighboring communities. The board by consensus approved the purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator