

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
April 6, 2015

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Steve Lanfear, Joyce Barbieri, Ralph Nimtz, Bill Scranton, Deb Scranton, John Tiffany, Nan Dubin, Judy Edmunds, Lynn Edmunds, Scott Sendra, Marc Pramuk, John Armstrong, Bryan Johnson, Jillian Burkett, David Cornwell, Cassie Ahearn, Joyce McMahan, Michael McMahan, Paula Baker, David Baasch, Lowell Klock, David Klock, Tom Gainer, Bonnie Gainer, Nancy Moore, Milt Moore, Jay White, Janine Rogers, and Elisabeth Kulas.

Selectboard Chairman N. Tift called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Agenda Amendments.** There were no agenda amendments.

**Minutes.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting. Motion carried (4-0). G. Fredette abstained because he was not at the meeting.

**Selectboard Orders.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve pay orders totaling \$24,042.43. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker was unable to attend the meeting. The board reviewed estimates for town garage bathroom renovations. John Cotrupi submitted a bid of \$4740 for new sheetrock, floor, sink, eye wash, and painting. He added \$1300 for a new shower. Dean Wetherby submitted a bid of \$7900.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to accept John Cotrupi's bid of \$4740 without the installation of a shower. Motion carried (5-0).

**Lister Services.** John Tiffany said he was offered a fulltime position with NEMRC and April 8 would be his last day on the job. NEMRC offered the town a short term Assessor Agreement to provide the services at a rate of \$75 an hour, plus \$37.50 an hour travel time. Mr. Tiffany would be the NEMRC representative for the town.

B. Brooks said lister Dave Ballou was not interested in filling the two-day a week vacancy. N. Tift said Lisa Wright Garcia had sent information indicating her firm would provide lister/assessor services at a rate of \$55 per hour plus mileage.

G. Fredette noted the lister salary line item was \$18,000 with \$7493 left in the FY'15 budget. Mr. Tiffany said the town could use the reappraisal fund to offset the difference.

B. Brooks said his preference would be to hire NEMRC for a transitional period until the town could find a permanent replacement.

After further discussion, G. Fredette made a motion to invite Lisa Wright Garcia to the next board meeting. R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-1). B. Brooks voted to oppose the motion.

**Public Comments.** In response to a question regarding the AT&T cell tower proposal, Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said an AT&T representative recently measured the tower in an effort to redesign plans so new antennas could be installed without disturbing the cupola.

Scott Sendra said he thought it was unethical for a corporation like NEMRC to hire a municipal employee and then try to insert him back into the same position.

**Third Quarter Financials.** Town Clerk and Treasure Julie Sharon said revenue from ordinance fines was up \$5000 and land use reimbursement was higher than expected. She said recording fees were down.

As for expenditures, J. Sharon said highway overtime, diesel fuel, winter salt and culverts were over budget. She noted property taxes were coming in at a steady pace.

**Liquor Licenses.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to approve liquor licenses for Sal's South and Midway Oil as well as special event permits for American Crafted Spirits and New England Smoked Seafood. Motion carried (5-0).

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** The board responded to a number of questions submitted by Rutland Regional Planning Commission regarding target dates for a number of projects in order to complete the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Board members indicated the town was not considering dredging Roaring Brook, culverts would be replaced on an ongoing basis as needed, Vermont Railroad was responsible for the installation of arms at railroad crossings, and the town was not considering petitioning the state for a blinking light on Route 7 at north end of Hartsboro Rd.

**Vision for the Village.** Elisabeth Kulas, the executive director of the Housing Trust of Rutland County, informed the board of her interest in the redevelopment of the Oddfellow' Block with a mix of retail and commercial space on the ground floor and affordable housing on the upper floor. She said this was something she had been considering over the past two years. She said it would be a complex project that would necessitate a community conversation regarding the future of the village.

Ms. Kulas indicated Vermont Council on Rural Development had the resources to work with Wallingford to facilitate the community conversation. She said similar efforts had

been undertaken in Rutland City, Brandon and Shoreham with great results. She said there would be no financial cost to the town for this effort, but she added it would require significant community participation.

Bill Scranton said he was very impressed with Ms. Kulas' work in Rutland City. Ralph Nimitz, David Baach, Paula Baker, Joyce Barbieri, Marc Pramuk and several other residents expressed support in moving forward with the project.

After a lengthy discussion, N. Tift said he had rarely seen such an outpouring of support and directed Ms. Kulas to contact VCRD's Paul Costello to arrange a meeting with the town.

**Fire Alarm Services.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to hire Catamount Electric for annual fire alarm inspection services and Green Mountain Fire for fire extinguisher inspections. Motion carried (5-0).

**Gilbert Hart Library Bulk Mail Permit Request.** B. Brooks made a motion that was approved by G. Fredette to allow Gilbert Hart Library to use the town's bulk mail permit for a fundraiser letter. Motion carried (5-0).

**Annual Appointments.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to appoint Bruce Dobbins as the town's representative to Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Bill Brooks as an alternate to RRPC. Motion carried (5-0).

**Town Hall Use Request.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve Yankee Driving School's request to hold classes on the main floor of Town Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 at a fee of \$25 per class. Motion carried (5-0).

**Workshop Requests.** By unanimous consent the board denied John Tiffany's request to attend a NEMRC workshop at a cost of \$125.

B. Brooks made a motion to amend the pay order total of \$24,042.43 to \$23,917.43 after denying a \$125 NEMRC Workshop request. M. Tessier seconded the amendment. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to approve Ruth Anne Barker's request to attend a VLCT Effective Property Tax Appeal workshop at a rate of \$60 without mileage fees. Motion carried (5-0).

**Summer Employees.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve Recreation Committee recommendations in hiring Lisa Cotrupi and Jenn Rocque Tift as co-directors of the summer recreation program, Kelsey Eddy, Alea Dauphinais,

Riley Phillips and Katherine Bullock as concession stand workers, Tyler Heffernan and Tim Heffernan as lifeguards/counselors, and Anna Baker and Ian Reilly as counselors/substitute lifeguards.

**Other Business/Announcements.** The board by unanimous consent approved the purchase of a Toshiba laptop computer at a cost of \$399 after rebates to be used for the road crew's Network Inventory. Once completed, the town's share of state transportation grants would be reduced by 10% from 30% to 20%.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

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