

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
April 17, 2017

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Joyce Barbieri, Michael McMahon, Joyce McMahon, Bastian Auer, Eileen Tessier and Jeff Biasuzzi.

Chairman Brooks called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

**Agenda Amendments.** Town Administrator Sandi Switzer added Wallingford Elementary School lake use request.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting on March 20, 2017. Motion carried (4-0).

**Pay Orders.** N. Tift. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 04/18/17 pay orders totaling \$96,150.50 after \$1693.37 was added for Wright Appraisal Services and mileage as well as \$171.70 to reimburse S. Switzer for the purchase of American flags and flag poles. Motion carried (4-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he would meet with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear this week to discuss summer paving projects to get Requests for Bids distributed in May.

He asked whether Highway Department funds not spent by the end of the current fiscal year would roll over into the highway budget for FY'18. B. Brooks advised using the funds by June 30 on anticipated expenses for next year such as winter tires. Mr. Baker said he would explore a bulk state purchase of culverts.

The road commissioner said the roads were drying well and he expected to tackle a North End Drive repair after all frost was out of that road. He added he would inspect Mary Lou Pierro's driveway culvert with Mr. Lanfear to see if a replacement was needed.

**Ballfield Signage.** By unanimous consent, the board approved the Town billing businesses for signs displayed on the ballfield fence.

**South Wallingford Industrial Zone Petition.** Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the Town received a petition on April 6, 2017 signed by 93 residents calling for the planning commission to revise zoning to re-establish the industrial boundaries in South Wallingford to the 1972 zoning ordinance.

B. Brooks read aloud the wording of the petition. He said it was his understanding the petition was submitted in response to the planning commission's request for someone to submit a written statement regarding industrial zone in order to initiate action.

There was a discussion regarding the timeline and process for responding to the petition. B. Brooks asked the town administrator to contact Rutland Regional Planning Commission to inquire the impact of the petition on the Town Plan adoption process.

Michael McMahon provided the Selectboard with extensive documentation regarding zoning regulations adopted and amended by the town over the past five decades. Highlighted among numerous items were town industrial zone revisions. Mr. McMahon called into question the zoning regulation adoption processes undertaken in 2009 and 2015. S. Switzer provided B. Brooks with a copy of an email from VLCT attorney Garrett Baxter responding to that issue.

There was a discussion regarding whether maps to be used in the updated Town Plan process should be corrected before that document was adopted.

After further discussion and with the consent of the public in attendance, the board tabled acceptance of the petition until the May 1, 2017 meeting in order to give members the opportunity to review documents provided by Mr. McMahon.

Board members thanked Mr. McMahon for his review and compilation of the zoning documents.

**Recreation Committee Appointment.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula appointing Michelle Kenny to a one-year seat on the Recreation Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

**Little League and Softball.** Bastian Auer informed the board the Recreation Committee met to discuss and approve a proposal to bring baseball and softball under the town's recreation umbrella with the town's insurance carrier, VLCT, providing coverage. S. Switzer said VLCT indicated the activities would be covered if they were town sanctioned and the groups did not have 501(c) 3 status.

Mr. Auer said he would oversee all fiscal and administrative duties, collect all fees, pay all expenditures and schedule games and umpires for the first year. He said there was discussion regarding adding flag football to recreation activities at some point in the future. Mr. Auer said he could foresee at some point hiring a recreation coordinator to administer recreation programs.

After further discussion, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to accept baseball and softball activities as part of the town's recreational program with the Recreational Committee overseeing all aspects of baseball and softball. Motion carried (4-0).

Mr. Auer asked whether the town had ever considered starting a derelict property fund with money added annually to the fund to be used to purchase real estate for recreational and other purposes. B. Brooks said it could be something to consider.

**Public Comments.** Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi asked if board members had any questions for him regarding the industrial zone petition. B. Brooks responded the matter was tabled until the next Selectboard meeting in May.

S. Switzer asked Mr. Biasuzzi if he would provide a copy of the planning commission's Minutes from the March 2017 meeting to post on the municipal website. The zoning administrator responded the Minutes were not completed. He said he would work on the document overnight and provide a copy on Tuesday.

**Quarterly Financials.** Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided an overview of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financials for FY'17. She said revenue estimates were meeting or exceeding budgeted amounts in most cases. She noted highway department road crew overtime and equipment line items was over-budget with most other line items at anticipated spending levels.

**VT Alert.** Board members revisited this matter tabled from the last meeting. It was announced the Wallingford Fire Department and Fire District #1 agreed to become submitters. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula authorizing the town to pursue participation in the VT Alert system. Motion carried (4-0).

**Local Emergency Operation Plan.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve as written the updated LEOP. Motion carried (4-0).

**PACIF Safety Equipment Grant.** S. Switzer said the \$1080.06 grant total included items for Town Hall, the transfer station and the town garage. The grant would cover 50% of the total and the Workplace Safety line item in the FY'18 budget would pay the balance.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift authorizing the Selectboard Chair to sign the grant application. Motion carried (4-0).

**Lister Classes.** N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving a request by Assessor Lisa Wright for Jill Stone Teer to take lister classes using lister funds to pay for the classes. Motion carried (4-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** M. Tessier asked whether it would be prudent for transfer station employees to wear bright vests for safety reasons. S. Switzer responded she had a conversation with transfer station employee Jim Regula and he was not in favor of it. R. Regula recused herself from discussion.

M. Tessier said he did not want to force employees to wear the vests, but he said he thought it was a good idea.

**Other Business.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving Wallingford Elementary School's request to use Elfin Lake for a picnic on June 6 with a June 9 rain date. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier said he would talk to Bastian Auer about donating the \$10 per child collected for baseball and softball insurance to the town. B. Brooks said he would advise Mr. Auer to collect all fees and pay all expenditures and then meet with the town at the end of the season to discuss any remaining funds.

N. Tift informed the board the town's highway ordinance should be amended to include Route 140E speed limits. He said the state would keep the revenue from fines unless the ordinance was amended. S. Switzer noted VTrans provided the wording from the state's description of that highway.

After a brief discussion and a review of the amendment adoption process, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to amend the Revised Ordinances of Wallingford, Title 2: Highways as follows:

*US Route 140E. A maximum speed of 25-mph beginning at the Junction of US Route 7 and extending easterly 0.30 miles to 0.10 miles east of TH-74 (mp 0.30) and from the point 35-mph easterly 0.30 miles to 0.40 miles east of TH-74 (mp 0.60) and from this point 40-mph extending easterly 3.73 miles to the intersection of TH-21 (mp 4.33). A maximum speed limit of 30-mph beginning at a point .16 miles west of TH-84 (mp 5.89) and extending easterly 0.45 to the Mount Holly town line (mp 6.34).*

Motion carried, (4-0).

The board by consensus agreed Slate Valley Electric should adhere to the municipality's \$1 million workers' compensation requirement with the town paying the additional \$55 to ensure Slate Valley to meet that level.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to enter executive session at 7:48 for a legal matter. Motion carried (4-0).

The board emerged from executive session at 7:59 p.m. and reviewed an email from Assessor Lisa Wright regarding her opinion of the Chapman appeal of the town's assessment. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier authorizing town attorney Gary Kupferer to negotiate a settlement in the Chapman case. Motion carried (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator