

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
July 18, 2016

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Lisa Wright Garcia and Tammy Heffernan

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

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2016 meeting with a minor change. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 06/30/16 pay orders totaling \$20,377.67. Motion carried (5-0).

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 07/19/16 pay orders totaling \$30,776.67 after adding \$128.40 for an Elfin Lake split rail fence, \$697.50 for Lisa Wright Garcia assessor fees and \$134.59 for a tax abatement.

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker informed the board Pike would be paving in town in September. He said he would inquire the cost of resurfacing the basketball court as well as the corner near the rail crossing on Hartsboro Road while Pike had equipment in town.

Mr. Baker said Road Foreman Steve Lanfear started roadside mowing over the weekend. He said he would instruct him not to mow on Sundays.

Mr. Baker reviewed the draft Driveway Access Policy. He said the section regarding an engineer study should be amended to include language related to state requirements. He agreed culverts should be a minimum of 30 feet in length and consist of heavy duty materials. B. Brooks asked Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to make the revisions and present the updated document at the next meeting.

**Reappraisal.** Assessor Lisa Wright Garcia recommended the town seek bids for reappraisal services for the 2018 Grand List.

She recommended hiring an outside firm for data collection and entry. She indicated she could serve as a contract assessor to complete the sales analysis and to develop the land schedules. Ms. Garcia offered to expand her weekly hours to assist with the reappraisal and oversee the data collection process.

Ms. Garcia suggested the town draft a Request for Proposal to be distributed in September with property inspections to begin this fall and continue through 2017.

There was a brief discussion regarding eventual elimination of the Board of Listers due to the extensive knowledge and time commitment required for holders of the office.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier directing Lisa Wright Garcia to draft a Request for Proposal for reappraisal services for review at the Selectboard meeting on August 1. Motion carried (5-0).

**Executive Session.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to enter executive session at 7:03 p.m. for a legal matter. Motion carried (5-0).

The board exited executive session at 7:17 p.m.

The board by unanimous consent agreed to request the Rutland County Sheriff Department send a deputy to escort a Board of Abatement committee on a site visit.

**Public Comments.** Tammy Heffernan indicated junk, tires and metals remained at the Dennis Smith Estate property located at 58 Florence Avenue property after the 30-day deadline cited in the town's Notice of Violation dated June 7, 2016. S. Switzer distributed a copy of the notice for board review.

Ms. Heffernan questioned whether the next owner of the property would be allowed to operate a similar business without seeking permits if the existing business was dormant for a year. B. Brooks indicated that would be a question for the zoning administrator.

B. Brooks noted nearly all of the unregistered vehicles had been removed from the property. After further discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to issue a Notice of Violation letter with a municipal ticket to the estate. Motion carried (5-0).

**Heating Oil Bids.** The board reviewed heating oil bids from Irving Oil, Keyser Energy, HB Energy Solutions, Johnson Energy, Marcel Oil and Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating.

G. Fredette indicated Wallingford Elementary School received a fixed rate price of \$1.77 per gallon for #2 fuel from Champlain Valley. N. Tift asked whether the town could request the same fixed rate. There was a discussion regarding the amount used last winter. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon offered to look up the numbers. Discussion was temporarily tabled.

**Little Red Schoolhouse.** N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette authorizing B. Brooks to sign a Quit Claim Deed turning the Little Red Schoolhouse property over to Mill River Union Unified School District. Motion carried (5-0).

**Heating Oil.** J. Sharon reported the town used 3070 gallons of #2 fuel last winter. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating if the business owner agrees to a fixed rate of \$1.77 per gallon.

B. Brooks said the board would revisit the matter if Champlain Valley did not agree to the rate.

**Elfin Lake Trees.** The board reviewed estimates from Trees Inc., Vallaincourt, Rob Barker and GM Tree Tech for the removal of six trees at Elfin Lake. S. Switzer indicated Tree Warden Steve Pytlik recommended GM Tree Tech after being provided with an overview of the estimates and timeframes available to do the work.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to follow the tree warden's recommendation and hire GM Tree Tech to cut down the trees and remove the wood for \$1000. Motion carried (5-0). N. Tift offered his Selectboard salary to cover the expense.

**Late Filing Penalty for Homestead Declarations.** G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to assess penalties for late filings of Homestead Declaration. Motion carried (5-0).

**Building Use Request.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette approving Wendy Savery's request to use Town Hall as a rain location for a Shakespeare play scheduled for the ballfield on July 28. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Comments.** M. Tessier asked whether Constable Jerry Tift was using the Rutland County Sheriff Department's dispatch services under the Memorandum of Understanding between the town and the law enforcement agency. N. Tift confirmed the constable was using the dispatch services after an expense of \$170 for radio updates.

G. Fredette said a second ballfield dugout had been spray painted.

**Other Business.** B. Brooks noted Tom Truex wrote a letter to the board commending the road crew for their assistance with the Veterans' Park monument.

The board agreed to table Karl and Lisa Thomsen's request to oversee monthly Open Mic events until they move to town.

N. Tift agreed to work with the town administrator on a VLCT dispatch service survey.

By unanimous consent, the board approved Green Screen Graphics' estimate of \$75 for a tennis court sign. G. Fredette noted the town would need to expend funds for landscaping around the tennis court.

M. Tessier requested the town send a Get Well card to RCSWD's Jim O'Gorman.

There was a discussion regarding a pop-up tent for lifeguards at Elfin Lake. It was noted there was an umbrella to shade the chair and a cushion for the seat.

After some discussion regarding the constable's hourly rate based on the approximate \$13,000 budgeted for FY'17, the board directed S. Switzer to inquire whether the constable was agreeable to a set weekly payment rather than an hourly rate.

The board reviewed the Minutes of the planning commission's July 11 meeting along with an email from Joyce Barbieri and a 2004 zoning map related to the South Wallingford industrial zone. By consensus, the board agreed the town did not want an attorney involved in settling the zoning matter. The board further agreed the South Wallingford industrial zone should be revised with the documentation readily available. B. Brooks asked J. Sharon to provide copies of the documents to the zoning administrator.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator