

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
September 8, 2014

Selectboard Present: Nelson Tift, Gary Fredette, Tom Phillips, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, and Lee Perry

Chair N.Tift called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes.** The August 18th meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by M. Tessier and seconded by N. Tift. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Orders.** G. Fredette made a motion to approve the pay orders totaling \$43,239.60 after discussing the Hartsboro Road project payment; motion seconded by M. Tessier. Motion carried (5-0).

G. Fredette made a motion authorizing Nelson Tift to sign the Champlain Valley heating fuel contract at \$3.20 per gallon on behalf of the town; R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

**Public Comments.** None

**Recreation Field Claim.** G. Fredette directed Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to contact VLCT to find out what kind of impact filing a claim for the vandalism would have on the town's property insurance.

N. Tift indicated there was over \$4000 in damages as a result of the vandalism that took place in August.

By unanimous consent, the board agreed the town should file a claim if there would be minimal effect on insurance rates.

M. Tessier said Green Mt. Power recommended increased LED voltage on the pole by the road. He added he would obtain estimates for surveillance cameras and solar powered flood lights that were motion activated.

T. Phillips indicated he would contact Fred Campbell about cameras and security lights.

The board agreed to revisit the issue at a future board meeting.

**Winter Salt.** The board reviewed the state bulk salt price of \$79.52 a ton for road salt from Cargill. S. Switzer obtained a revised price and contract from Cargill with a rate of \$76.02 a ton. She indicated American Rock Salt declined to offer prices to anyone who

was not a customer last year.

By unanimous consent, the board authorized N. Tift to sign the Cargill winter salt agreement for 550 tons at \$76.02 a ton.

The board noted they had reviewed the recommendations by Matt Jakubowski of the Division of Fire Safety regarding placement of the above ground fuel storage tank at the town garage. N. Tift said Road Foreman Steve Lanfear and Road Commissioner Phil Baker should meet to work out the details to comply with state regulations.

**VLCT Business Meeting.** R. Regula volunteered to attend the annual business meeting and VLCT Fair on October 9 in Essex Junction. N. Tift directed S. Switzer to attend the fair as well. The cost is \$50 per person.

**Health Officer Appointment.** G. Fredette made a motion to re-appoint Trisha Nash as health officer for a three-year term; R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

The board agreed by unanimous consent to accept Dana Jones' resignation from the recreation committee.

T. Phillips made a motion to appoint Trisha Nash to the recreation committee; G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker informed the board the road crew was hauling winter sand.

He said a culvert on Haven Hill Road needed to be replaced and a 30-inch culvert was needed on Sugar Hill Road.

Mr. Baker said he had completed most of the Hartsboro Road project and that it would need to be paved in about a month. He agreed to contact Fuller Sand and Gravel to scope out the paving project and provide the information to the Selectboard at the next meeting, so the town can go out to bid for the paving.

The road commissioner said the contaminated soil had been removed from the town garage property as part of the removal of the underground fuel storage tank.

He said the catch basin project near the fire station was completed and he had used some of the hot mix to patch a gap in a nearby sidewalk.

There was discussion regarding the paving budget of \$40,000, which is line item #5325. Mr. Baker said some of the money would be needed for Hartsboro Road. T. Phillips recommended rolling over the balance for paving projects in 2015. There was a discussion that Church Street, Hull Avenue, Circular Drive, River Street and Railroad Street were all candidates for paving.

Mr. Baker noted Amy Gilbert wanted to move the snow plowing turnaround to a site near her barn rather than her driveway off Van Wyck Road. She would like the town to supply the gravel to create the turnaround since it would be to the town's advantage to use it. Mr. Baker estimated it would take two loads at a cost of about \$250. M. Tessier made a motion the town supply the material; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Baker said Justin Filskov was seeking permission to install a 15-inch culvert at his Maranville Road property. The road commissioner said he discussed it with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear, who indicated the culvert could be angled to allow water to run through it and into the woods rather than onto the town road, which was an issue.

T. Phillips said it was a municipal standard to use 18-inch culverts and worried the town would be setting a precedent. Mr. Baker said he would ask Mr. Filskov if he would be willing to accept any liability if water washed out his driveway as a result of using a 15-inch culvert.

**Tax Sale.** Delinquent Tax Collector Lee Perry informed the board six properties were scheduled for tax sales on September 18. He expected some of the delinquencies to be resolved prior to that date.

There was a discussion regarding what, if any, properties the town should bid on in case there were no bidders.

M. Tessier made a motion S. Switzer would represent the town at the tax sale; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0). By unanimous consent, the board agreed the town would only bid on the Wayne and Katherine Wade and the Bixby Estate properties if there were no bidders.

**Act 178.** The Selectboard agreed by unanimous consent to adhere to the advice offered by Johnathon Croft of VTrans Mapping Unit in reference to TH# 84 (Fieldstone Way) and TH#28 (Seward Hill Road) with regard to Act 178. Mr. Croft sent an email to the town noting the mileage and alignment of TH#84 includes TH#28 and, therefore, no adjustments were needed on the VTrans map to comply with Act 178. The issue was raised after a review of VTrans maps showed TH#28 was not listed and TH#84 encompassed the entire stretch of road.

**VLCT Contractor Insurance Requirements.** The board reviewed a document provided by VLCT outlining insurance requirements for anyone who does work for the town. N. Tift said all contractors should receive a copy of the document.

He said the board would review the draft insurance agreement for contractors once VLCT has completed work on it.

**Appointments.** M. Tessier made a motion to appoint Kate McClallen to the conservation commission, G. Fredette seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

**Late Dog Registration Fees.** The board considered options for increasing late fees rather than issuing municipal tickets. S. Switzer will survey other towns to find out what they charge.

**Other Announcements/Business.** There was a discussion regarding inviting summer recreation employees to a future meeting to review program offerings. It was agreed the Recreation Committee ought to oversee the program and make any recommendations to the Selectboard.

The town has purchased new street signs to meet federal requirements. The board directed S. Switzer to see if John Squier would assist the road crew in replacing street signs.

The board took no action on Unison's request to purchase the cell tower lease.

There was a discussion regarding the recent vandalism at the transfer station and the theft of redeemable bottles as well as copper from air conditioners. No action taken.

M. Tessier said he had sent a contractor to the transfer station to obtain an estimate to repair the trash compactor and learned it was a bigger job than the contractor wanted to undertake.

The board was informed town auditors had reviewed FY'14 finances and reported all was in order.

The board received a notice from VLCT indicating town health insurance rates would increase an estimated 7.7 percent next year. The board agreed to review rates and health insurance plans once the rates were set later this year.

The board had no response to Frank Chapman's concerns regarding Mitchell Road and being able to remove timber from his property.

The board was made aware of flag football games and practices at the recreation field.

G. Fredette mentioned wood chips were used at the pavilion in Fair Haven near the school and the town ought to consider wood chips for the Elfin Lake pavilion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Date Approved: September 22, 2014