

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
December 5, 2016

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

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Jerry Tift, Stephen Benard and Phil Baker

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

Agenda Amendments. R. Regula added Prudential Committee vacancy.

Minutes. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting on November 21, 2016. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve the 12/06/16 pay orders totaling \$4479.86 after \$30 was added for VT Association of Police Chiefs workshop for Nelson Tift. Motion carried (5-0).

FY'18 Public Safety. Rutland County Sheriff Stephen Benard noted the contract with the town would increase 3.5% to \$36,639 for FY'18. He explained defense attorney requests for discovery required additional personnel and had impacted the RCSD budget.

N. Tift asked about dispatch services and whether the town should be budgeting funds for those services. After a brief discussion, the sheriff said it was unlikely the legislature would approve a plan requiring towns to pay for those services starting July 1 knowing municipal budgets would already have been approved. Sheriff Benard said he would return in May with a new law enforcement agreement. He left the meeting.

B. Brooks asked Constable Jerry Tift about his request to increase the mileage line item of the budget. The constable responded he had spent \$831 for repairs to his vehicle used for patrols. He indicated an increase to the mileage stipend would offset some of those expenses. After further discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to add 25 cents to the federal mileage rate for the constable in the FY'18 budget. Motion carried (5-0).

The board set Public Safety line # 5402 at \$3240, line # 5406 Special Officers at \$50,400 and line # 5408 Animal Control Officer at \$1200 for a total Public Safety budget of \$54,840.

B. Brooks thanked the constable for his services on behalf of the community.

FY'18 Recreation. N. Tift noted minimum wage would increase to \$10 an hour in January giving concession stand employees a 40-cent raise. He suggested lifeguards receive a similar pay increase.

The board agreed to add \$500 to line #5801 Elfin Lake salaries to bring the new total to \$10,500. The board level-funded #5901 Summer Recreation Salaries at \$7450 and line #5803 Telephone at \$250. They added \$100 to line #5804 Electric to bring it up to \$450.

The board reviewed the Recreation Committee's budget request of \$4000 for line #5805 Maintenance with the added funds to be used to repair the basketball court. It was noted there was a \$6400 Certificate of Deposit that could be used for the repairs. The board level-funded lines #5805 at \$1000 and level-funded lines #5806, #5807 and #5809. They increased line #5809 by \$200 for a new total of \$600.

The board discussed the Recreation Committee's request to set line #5811 Capital at \$8000 for a new beach play area. It was noted a portion of the CD could also be used for the play area.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer cautioned Nicom did not visit the town but rather reviewed photographs before providing an estimate of \$3500 to \$6300 to repair the basketball court. She indicated she did not know how much money from the CD would be leftover to assist with play area purchases.

After further discussion, the board set line #5811 Capital at \$5000. B. Brooks indicated the board could reconsider that figure if the Recreation Committee provided more information regarding cost estimates for specific purchases or whether the \$8000 was the matching grant amount needed for the project.

Public Comments. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the town should consider addressing road drainage issues on Meadow Street. He offered a number of options, including the installation of a shallow drain, trench or catch basin. He said he would discuss options with state Department of Environmental Conservation's Patrick Lowkes.

Mr. Baker said Pike Industries would close for the winter after the first of the year and would not be operating a hot mix plant in South Wallingford any more. S. Switzer provided the road foreman with a copy of the letter from Pike indicating an increase in the price of aggregate after the first of the year.

Mr. Baker said Road Foreman Steve Lanfear was addressing town garage floor drain issues.

Reappraisal Contract. The board reviewed Wright Appraisal's contract for reappraisal services in the amount of \$70,800 to be completed by June 4, 2018. After a brief discussion, G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve and sign the contract. Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve Lisa Wright's request to purchase a new tablet and software not to exceed \$1500 with the funds coming out of reappraisal funds. Motion carried (5-0).

Fish and Wildlife Account. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to authorize the Town Clerk and Treasurer to transfer funds as needed from the General account to the Fish and Wildlife Account. Motion carried (5-0).

Mears Meadow Trail. G. Fredette suggested Dean McGee pay the \$500 fee as indicated in town policy to initiate a road discontinuance request.

In response to an inquiry, M. Tessier said discontinuing the portion of Mears Meadow Trail on the McGee property would not land lock any of the abutting landowners.

B. Brooks indicated the town was required to follow state statutes regarding the discontinuance process even for a portion of the road. That process, he said, included public hearings, notices, and a warning in the newspaper.

The board agreed by consensus to request Mr. McGee send the \$500 to the town in order to initiate this process.

Selectboard Comments. R. Regula said Martin Santor may be interested in the Prudential Committee vacancy. She said he had experience with sewer and water systems and would be an asset to the committee. R. Regula said Mr. Santor intended to contact Fire District #1 officials to learn more about committee responsibilities before making a decision.

Other Business. B. Brooks noted the town administrator had drafted a trail maintenance letter to be sent to any landowner interested in pursuing work on Class 4 Roads or Trails.

S. Switzer asked the board about Chloe Burkett's request to carryover her town scholarship until next spring because she had taken a gap year. The board by consensus agreed scholarship funds should be divided among the students enrolled this spring and encouraged Ms. Burkett to apply again for a town scholarship for next spring.

S. Switzer asked whether the board would like to print both the 24-page annual report and about 100 80-page reports or just print the smaller report. The board by consensus agreed both reports should be printed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

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