

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
December 15, 2014

Select Board Members Present: Nelson Tift, Gary Fredette, Tom Phillips, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier.

Others Present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Steve Lanfear, Jeff Biasuzzi, Josh Bagnato, Jeanne Elias, Bonnie Gainer, and Bastian Auer

Chair N. Tift called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** N. Tift added radar unit recertification to the agenda.

**Minutes.** The December 1 meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by G. Fredette and seconded by R. Regula. Minutes were approved (4-0). M. Tessier was not present for the vote.

**Selectboard Orders.** G. Fredette moved to approve pay orders totaling \$30,777.45 after \$20 for Police Chief Workshop was added; N. Tift seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0).

**Public Safety FY'16.** (M. Tessier arrived at the meeting) Constable Jerry Tift was present to answer any questions related to his proposal to increase constable and special police officer patrols in town, while reducing and eventually eliminating Rutland County Sheriff Department coverage. The proposal included purchasing a fully equipped 2011 Ford Crown Victoria with 50,000 miles from Rutland City Police Department for \$11,000. He provided the board with different options for the constables' budget that would include purchasing the vehicle outright or taking out a three-year loan. He said the overall impact on the FY'16 Public Safety budget would depend on the board's decision on the vehicle and the level of coverage budgeted for the constable and the sheriff.

There was extensive discussion regarding the number of hours per week the constable and a special police officer would be on duty if sheriff coverage was eliminated. The board also discussed police academy training costs, the range of duties local law enforcement would be allowed to perform if the legislature approves a new tiered system in the next session, and the impact on the town's insurance rates. The discussion was tabled until the January 5 meeting.

**New England Clean Power Link.** Josh Bagnato was present to answer the board's questions regarding TDI New England's application for a Certificate of Public Good filed December 8 with the state Public Service Board to install a transmission line to run from Canada to Ludlow with a section along Route 103 in Wallingford. Jeanne Elias from the state Department of Public Service was also in attendance to hear any of the town's concerns.

N. Tift asked whether the line would be installed in the state right-of-way along Route 103. Mr. Bagnato responded the line would be installed in the railroad right-of-way for 1.1 miles in East Wallingford and along the road right-of-way for about a mile on the non-river side. He said the line is 5 inches in diameter and would be buried 3 feet and covered by two feet of native soils and a 1-foot concrete cap. He said installation would require 4-foot trenches and the removal of trees within six feet of either side of the line. He indicated the project was made possible by the closing of Vermont Yankee, which opened up capacity on transmission lines. He said construction would begin in 2016 if all permits were approved and the project would be completed in 2019. He said the line had a 40-year life expectancy.

S. Switzer asked about municipal revenue from the project. Mr. Bagnato said the town could expect an estimated payment of \$171,000 the first year (2019) and incrementally lower amounts over the 40 years with the final payment estimated at \$96,000.

**Public Comments.** None

**Wallingford Rescue FY'16.** (T. Phillips left the meeting) Bastian Auer presented a proposal to level-fund the budget at \$10,000 for the next year. G. Fredette moved to level fund the Wallingford Rescue budget at \$10,000; M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion approved (4-0).

**Gilbert Hart Library FY '16.** Bonnie Gainer requested level-funding the library budget at \$34,000. She indicated the library may receive income from the sale of the property across the street that was left to the library. However, she said burst pipes damaged the building while under the supervision of another party and the library would be fortunate to receive \$10,000 if it sold.

G. Fredette made a motion to level-fund the library budget at \$34,000; M. Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker was not present. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear told the board he had seen five people fill trucks with sand from the municipal sand pile. He suggested dumping loads of gravel in front of the sand to block vehicles from reaching the pile. The board directed him to dump the gravel and erect No Trespassing signs that permit residents to take buckets of sand but not truckloads.

S. Lanfear reported at least 20 trees fell onto Dugway Road during the snowstorm. He said Phil Baker and Sons had opened up West Hill Road within hours of its closure due to downed trees and debris.

He said he did not have the chance to erect a roof over the above ground diesel fuel tank at the town garage.

**Highway FY'16.** The board discussed with the road foreman priority purchases for the next budget. S. Lanfear said the loader was in good operating condition, but he said the cab needed to be replaced or rebuilt. He said the 2006 Sterling should be replaced.

G. Fredette asked whether the town should hire a third fulltime road crew employee. S. Lanfear said it was not necessary at this point, but he added part-time help in the summer was needed. He said if the town had two tandem trucks then a third fulltime employee would be helpful. S. Lanfear suggested the town consider purchasing a single axle truck that was set-up like a tandem.

There was discussion about putting money into a truck fund, increasing the salt budget in response to the 40% hike in salt bids this year and increasing the culvert budget as a result of the culvert inventory showing the conditions of the structures townwide.

N. Tift requested Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provide the board with a five-year comparison of the actual tax rate at the next meeting.

The board agreed on the following Highway line items amounts: #5301 - \$9500; #5302 - \$500; #5307- \$3500; #5308 - \$14,000 (includes a \$12,575 loan payment plus maintenance; #5309 - \$300; # 5310 - \$1000; #5315 - \$25,000 (includes loan payment); # 5316 - \$500; #5317 - \$500; #5318 - \$28,000; #5319 - \$35,000; #5320 - \$100; #5321 - \$2800; #5322 - \$1000; #5323 - \$40,000; #5324 - \$1500; #5335 - \$20,000; #5327 - \$500; #5328 - \$1500; #5331 - \$2500 (Sterling needs two tires); #5333 - \$300; #5334 - \$3000; #5336 - \$55,000 (includes a \$50,810 loan payment).

Lines #5303 and #5314 were tabled until next meeting. The board wants the road commissioner to provide a paving priority schedule and estimates to rent a roadside mower at the January 5 meeting.

**Appropriations FY'16.** G. Fredette made a motion to level-fund all appropriations except the Mt. Holly Rescue Squad (which would increase \$400 to \$2500) and the flag fund (which would increase \$50 to \$150); the motion was seconded by R. Regula. Motion carried (4-0).

**Annual Report Dedication.** The board agreed by unanimous consent to dedicate the annual Town Report to Bill Seward.

**Reserve Fund.** By unanimous consent, the board agreed to table action on the Reserve Fund to a future budget.

**Other Announcements/Business.** The board reviewed documents sent by New Cingular Wireless on behalf of AT&T related to amending the cell tower agreement. N. Tift noted the town received an offer last spring for an additional \$500 a month in rent plus a \$2000 signing bonus to extend the clock tower by 4 feet to accommodate six new antennas. The latest offer featured \$150 increase in rent and no signing bonus with the clock tower extension adjusted to 8 feet.

G. Fredette mentioned his concerns regarding aesthetics and R. Regula was opposed to altering the building. N. Tift questioned whether funds from a Preservation Trust grant for work on Town Hall a decade ago could preclude alterations to the building.

The board briefly discussed a state statute prohibiting residents from serving as auditors if spouses were on the Selectboard. The board took no action.

The board by unanimous consent gave the Wallingford Fire Department approval to access Town Hall through the key in the lock box in order to use the second floor of the building as an evacuation site for Wallingford House residents during cold weather.

N. Tift indicated the town's radar units needed to be recertified at a cost of \$25 to \$35. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the recertification. Motion carried (4-0).

The board acknowledged T. Phillips must submit a lot line adjustment application and survey to the zoning administrator for his Route 140W property.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Minutes Approved: