

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
December 21, 2015

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

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Michael McMahon, Joyce McMahon, Jay White, Jeff Biasuzzi, Bonnie Gainer, Steve Lanfear, Hillary Reynolds, Marlene Allen, Philip Allen, Stephen Chmielewski, and Bob Greene

**Agenda Amendments.** None

**Minutes.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve the December 7, 2015 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Orders.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks to approve pay orders totaling \$18,024.70. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker informed the board studded tires for the 2014 Kenworth would cost \$365 each and the vehicle would need eight tires. He said the grader needed two tires at a cost of \$1171 each, including a \$100 rebate that expired at the end of the year.

After some discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette authorizing the purchase of two grader tires at a cost of \$1171 each by the end of this year and budgeting for two more tires in the FY'17 spending plan. Motion carried (5-0).

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by B. Brooks authorizing the purchase of eight studded tires at a cost of \$365 each for the Kenworth. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Baker said a bottle jack costing up to \$100 was needed at the town garage. B. Brooks said there were funds in equipment miscellaneous to cover the expense.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked whether the road foreman or road commissioner knew of any projects suitable for the Better Backroad Grant program addressing road erosion problems and/or culvert upgrades. Mr. Lanfear suggested Sugar Hill Road as one possibility. Mr. Baker agreed to provide details and estimates for the grant application at the board's first meeting in January.

**FY'17 Highway.** The board set the following line items: #5301 Town Garage Operating Expense at \$9,500; #5302 Equipment-Misc. at \$500; #5303 Loader at \$500; #5307 grader at \$3500; #5308 backhoe at \$4000; #5309 pagers at \$300; #5310 sanders/plows at \$1500; #5314 hired equipment at \$7000 (this item includes \$2500 for Mount Holly roadside mowing, \$2950 to rent a mower for 40 hours and \$1475 for 20 additional mower hours).

The board set #5315 diesel fuel at \$20,000; #5316 gasoline at \$500; #5317 landscaping at \$500; #5318 winter sand at \$28,000; #5319 winter salt at \$35,000; #5320 chloride at \$500; #5321 culverts at \$5000; #5322 oil and grease at \$1500; #5323 gravel at \$50,000; #5324 blades and chains at \$1500; #5325 paving at \$40,000; #5327 traffic control devices at \$500; #5328 uniforms at \$2000; #5333 1955 Ford at \$300; #5334 Ford 550 at \$3000; #5336 2014 Kenworth at \$5000; #5337 2016 Kenworth at \$43,000 (which includes 1 of 3 payments and maintenance).

**FY'17 Wallingford Rescue.** Hillary Reynolds provided an overview of the year's activities. She requested level-funding at \$10,000. After some discussion, B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to set Wallingford Rescue's budget for FY'17 at \$11,000. Motion carried (5-0).

**FY'17 Gilbert Hart Library.** Bonnie Gainer detailed the numerous activities held at the library in 2015, including the Wallingford Summer Recreation program. She said the library had level-funded the funding request at \$34,000 for a number of years and was seeking a \$2000 increase to \$36,000.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve the library's FY'17 budget request of \$36,000.

**Troy Minerals Solar Project in South Wallingford.** Samesun's Marlene Allen offered an overview of the ground-mounted solar project proposed for South Wallingford west of Route 7 near the quarry. Samesun's Philip Allen said 85% of the energy generated from the solar arrays would power the quarry. He noted Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) associated with the project would retire in Vermont, the project would generate 238,000 kilowatt hours a year saving 3500 tons of carbon in its life cycle and arrays would cover one acre of land. He further noted the project would generate about \$60,000 in municipal property taxes over the next 25 to 30 years.

Zoning Jeff Biasuzzi distributed a memorandum he drafted regarding aesthetic, screening and decommissioning issues related to the solar project. He said vegetation could be planted in the buffer zone between Route 7 and the arrays.

Michael and Joyce McMahon spoke out in favor of the Troy Minerals' application to the Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good.

Troy Minerals owner Stephen Chmielewski indicated his property taxes had tripled and he was seeking cost-cutting measures leading to the solar project. He said the arrays would be situated below grade and he doubted screening would have an impact.

N. Tift said the town would like the applicant to consider screening. He noted this project and the town's response to it could set a precedent for future solar projects proposed for the community. After extensive discussion, Mr. Chmielewski agreed to explore options for screening. There was a brief discussion on decommissioning elements of the project, but no consensus was reached.

B. Brooks indicated he liked the fact the power was staying local and he thanked Mr. Chmielewski and the Allens for sharing details of the project. He concluded by noting the town wanted reasonable screening.

**Public Comments.** Mr. Biasuzzi said it would be advisable for future developers of solar and other projects to meet with town officials prior to submitting applications.

Mr. Biasuzzi informed the board a Development Review Board hearing would likely take place in January for a Cumberland Farms proposal to demolish the existing structure in the village and replace it with a new building.

Energy Coordinator Jay White said the Energy Committee supports solar.

**FY'17 Appropriations.** The board approved the Little League request of \$1500 with \$500 on line item #5229 and \$1000 on new line item #5813 recreation field maintenance.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to level fund all charitable requests with the follow exceptions; \$36,000 for Gilbert Hart Library, \$11,000 for Wallingford Rescue, \$150 for Green Up Vermont, \$500 for RAVNAH, \$500 for Southwest Council on Aging, \$500 for Rutland Mental Health, \$1000 for Red Cross, \$100 for NeighborWorks and \$300 for Child First Advocacy. Motion carried (5-0).

S. Switzer informed the board Rutland County tax (line #5155) would be \$17,800.

**Annual Report Dedication.** B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to dedicate the annual Town Report to Fred Thurlow. Motion carried (5-0).

**Resignation.** By unanimous consent, the board accepted with regrets Derek Farmer's resignation from the planning commission.

**Selectboard Concerns.** G. Fredette noted Tinmouth was no longer allowed to accept electronic waste. Wallingford must accept Tinmouth's ewaste since the town's transfer station is registered as a state ewaste facility. G. Fredette said transfer station employees would monitor the amount of ewaste collected and request citizens return another day when gaylords were full.

**Other Business/Announcements.** There was a discussion regarding VLCT's workers' compensation requirements for all sub-contractors and whether that would pertain to Jim Regula, who works at the transfer station and also submits invoices to the town occasionally throughout the year for handy man jobs at Town Hall. By consensus, the board agreed to request Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon calculate a wage that results in Mr. Regula's receiving the same hourly rate for handy man duties after deductions were made.

Finally, the board reviewed a draft letter on behalf of the town to the Public Service Board regarding the Troy Minerals, Inc. solar project application. By unanimous consent, the board authorized S. Switzer to mail the letter to the PSB.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Date Approved: 01/04/16

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator