

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 26, 2019

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Patricia Pranger, Rose Regula and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Lynn Edmunds, Cecile Betit, Jonathan Gibson, Michelle Kenny, Bastian Auer, Jamie Therriault, Connie Berger and Steve Berger.

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

Agenda Amendments. Zoning Administrator Workshop Funding Request..

Minutes. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 08/05/19 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving the pay order total of \$41,747.68 after \$57.38 was added for Wex Citgo Fuel. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he had been in contact with four vendors regarding loader and/or excavator bids.

He said B. Duchesne and J. McClallen met with him at the Van Wyck Bridge to inspect the condition of the structure. He said the bridge beams (installed in 1999) were in disrepair and should be immediately replaced out of concern for the traveling public and emergency vehicles. He said he obtained a price of \$5300 from Mac Steel for beams.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said FEMA was still reviewing the municipality's request to change the Scope of Work in order to increase concrete thickness from 1 inch to 6 inches. She said the state Department of Public Safety's Kim Canarecci instructed the Town to wait for FEMA to complete the review prior to initiating work or risk losing funding. S. Switzer further noted FEMA preferred multiple estimates and the Town had secured just two – Daniels Construction (\$83,750) and Phil Baker and Sons (\$18,750.96)– after two rounds of seeking bids.

N. Tift said the Town should let FEMA know the bridge ought to be closed for safety reasons until the work was completed. He said maybe that would speed up the FEMA review.

There was a discussion regarding withdrawing the Town's request to FEMA in order to immediately begin bridge repairs incorporating the original Scope of Work. Mr. Baker estimated the entire project could take up to three weeks and he anticipated beginning on September 3. By consensus, the Board agreed it was the Town's intent to follow the

original FEMA Scope of Work and notify the agency the municipality had withdrawn a request for changes.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to accept low bidder Phil Baker and Sons estimate of \$18,750.96 for repairs to Van Wyck Bridge as outlined in FEMA's original Scope of Work. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board approved hiring Phil Baker and Sons to work with the road crew on the beam replacement project for the structure.

Mr. Baker reported Pike had completed most of the summer paving, but had yet to pave Seward Hill Road. There was a brief discussion regarding Richard Savery's concerns related to Hillside Drive paving. Mr. Baker said the area not paved was considered a driveway.

Recreation Director. There was a discussion regarding new Recreation Director Jamie Therriault's compensation, office hours and expectations. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger setting an \$833 monthly stipend up to a maximum of the voter approved \$10,000 for the position. Motion carried (4-0). R. Regula abstained.

Recreation Committee Chair Michelle Kenny said a lot of Ms. Therriault's work hours would be conducted either outside overseeing events, at home grant writing, developing new programs or expanding existing ones. The Board agreed Ms. Therriault could work out of her home rather than maintain office hours and she could use an ipad purchased by the Town during the recent reappraisal. Board members further agreed Ms. Therriault should provide the Recreation Committee with monthly reports to be passed onto the Selectboard as necessary.

Recreation Committee member Bastian Auer suggested the Town research updating the municipal website to include online registration of recreation events/activities. S. Switzer offered to seek estimates and report back to the Board.

Telephone Backup Power Obligation. Cecile Betit and Jonathan Gibson spoke in favor of the Town seeking party status from the Department of Public Service and the state Public Utility Commission regarding telephone provider backup power obligations. Ms. Betit spoke of the unintended consequences of VTel's installation of fiber optic cables that made telephone service reliant upon electricity. She said East Wallingford residents have no E911 services when the power goes out creating safety concerns. She added there was no cell phone service in East Wallingford. Mr. Gibson said the electricity dependency of telephone service puts many residents in Wallingford, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and elsewhere at risk during outages. They both requested the Town send a letter of concern to the state requesting agencies support Best Practices for the telecommunication industry and specifically to address backup batteries and power outages.

By consensus, the Board agreed the Town would seek party status. They further agreed Ms. Betit could represent the Town at upcoming hearings and workshops. She offered to

draft a letter to the Public Utility Commission for Board review at the September 9 meeting.

Board members by consensus agreed the Town should accept VTel's offer of a free workshop to educate the public on the battery backup system and extended life batteries.

Land Record Reserve Fund. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to establish a Reserve Fund for the purpose of preserving municipal Land Records. Motion carried (5-0).

Taylor Property. Board members reviewed Attorney William Meub's letter on behalf of his client, Stan Taylor, regarding a town line matter. Board members directed the town administrator to explore legal representation options.

Public Comments. None.

VLCT Fair. By consensus, the Board authorized S. Switzer, N. Tift and P. Pranger to attend the annual VLCT Fair in October at a cost of \$65 per person. By consensus, the Board authorized R. Regula to serve as voting delegate and attend both days of the fair at a cost of \$100.

Zoning Administrator Workshop Request. By consensus, the Board denied the zoning administrator's request to attend a Zoning and Land Use Law forum in Burlington at a cost of \$138.20 to the Town.

Municipal Planning Grant. The Board by consensus authorized N. Tift to sign the BMA Associates agreement for the Wallingford Block project.

Selectboard Comments. None.

Other Business. N. Tift said No Parking signs were needed in front of Cumberland Farms. J. McClallen expressed concern regarding roadside mowing. Steve Berger suggested budgeting for a roadside mower.

N. Tift said the former delinquent tax collector, Lee Perry, had not provided an explanation of a bank account balance of \$3608.20. He said the money should go into the general fund.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 09/09/19