

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
November 4, 2019

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer and Charles Merriman via telephone.

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

Agenda Amendments. Zoning Administrator Workshop request was added by consensus.

Minutes. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 10/21/19 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the pay order total of \$1,646,234.54. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

N. Tift noted Rob Stubbins had submitted a general report regarding a list of electrical system updates needed at the Town Garage. He indicated Town Administrator Sandi Switzer was seeking estimates from a number of contractors.

N. Tift noted the pay orders included \$44,000 (from the Equipment Fund) as a down payment for the Milton CAT loader. He said the State Equipment Loan Committee would meet in December and if that financing was rejected the Town would go with Community Bank.

By consensus, the Board agreed to use the \$2,000 in FY'20 line #5332 to offset Van Wyck Bridge repair expenses.

Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan Estimates. Two estimates were submitted as a result of the Town's Request for Proposal on an update of the Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Rutland Regional Planning Commission bid \$7,596.83 and OPH Consulting bid \$6,860.00. N. Tift noted both bids were below the FEMA Grant of \$7,612.50.

After some discussion, B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to accept RRPC's proposal. Motion carried (5-0). Board members indicated RRPC was chosen because of the organization's familiarity with Wallingford's current LHMP, Risk Mapping efforts, and emergency management systems plus the proposal included specific dates for deliverables.

Public Comments. None.

Opioid Class Action Lawsuit Opt Out. J. McClallen supported opting out of the class action lawsuit related to National Prescription Opiate Litigation. He called it a “money grab” similar to actions taken against the tobacco industry. B. Duchesne said he did not envision the Town actually receiving any funds from the lawsuit.

After further discussion, J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to opt out of the class action lawsuit. Motion carried (4-0). N. Tift abstained.

Selectboard Comments. J. McClallen suggested the Board reconsider whether to plow Wallingford Elementary School parking lot. He said if Mill River Unified Union School District plows it then it comes out of the school budget rather than Town funds. He said the road crew would be free to concentrate elsewhere if they did not have to plow the school lot. After further discussion, the Board did not rescind the October 21 decision to plow WES. Board members agreed the Town should be allowed to use WES for the annual meeting in exchange for the plowing.

Board members agreed not to send an invoice to the Assessor for the fire protection tax error. Instead, it was agreed N. Tift would have a conversation with the Assessor about this matter.

Executive Session. B. Duchesne made a motion that premature general public knowledge regarding probable civil litigation with the Town of Tinmouth and Stan Taylor would put the Town of Wallingford at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing negotiation strategy. P. Pranger seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne made a motion to enter executive session at 7:16 p.m. with Attorney Charles Merriman via telephone to discuss probable civil litigation with the Town of Tinmouth and Stan Taylor under 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1). P. Pranger seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to exit executive session at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board directed Mr. Merriman to pursue declaratory judgment on the town line matter and work with the State and Tinmouth to resolve the education portion of the taxes.

By consensus, the Board agreed the fire protection taxes on the Stan Taylor property would be due April 20, 2020.

Other Business. The town administrator said VTel’s Judith Paton responded to concerns regarding removal of older utility poles by indicating Wallingford Elementary would soon be switched to fiber optic cables and then the copper wires could be

eliminated from the older poles. In addition, Paton had explained to the town administrator that scheduling traffic control had been an issue in removing poles and she added Consolidated Communication had wires on some of the poles south of the village that would not be moved until early next year.

By consensus, the Board opposed approving a School Choice Proclamation request.

By consensus, the Board denied the zoning administrator's funding request for a VLCT workshop in December.

P. Pranger requested a clarification on the \$8804.33 in Employer Social Security expenses on the monthly statement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 11/18/19