

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 20, 2020

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

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Tammy Heffernan and Tom Heffernan.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve the 01/06/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the pay order total of \$42,565.45. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the highway department had been hauling sand and filling pot holes. He said H. P. Fairfield sent a note related to roadside mower rentals for 2020 at \$3,300 a week. There was a brief discussion about obtaining additional estimates. By consensus, the Board directed Town Administrator Sandi Switzer to contact H. P. Fairfield and reserve either the last week of April or the first week of May.

Certificate of Highway Miles. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen authorizing board members to sign VTrans Certificate of Highway Miles with no changes. Motion carried (5-0).

The town administrator asked if there were any special weights to report to VTrans on roads or bridges. Mr. Baker said there were none.

Quarterly Financials. Board members reviewed quarterly financials ending December 31 for FY'20. Both N. Tift and J. McClallen said they would donate their Selectboard salaries. P. Pranger noted line 4503 - Ordinances fines - was already over the estimated income of \$25,000 just six months into the fiscal year.

FY'21 Budget. The town administrator indicated Recreation Committee members Diane Baker and Trisha Nash had requested Capital line #5811 be set at \$5,000, the Special Article related to the basketball court be reduced to \$30,000, and line #5813 Recreation Field Maintenance be set at \$750.

B. Duchesne said he was opposed to the practice of carrying over funds or placing unused funds in Certificates of Deposits. He said he favored a Special Article of \$35,000 for the

basketball court and leaving the Capital line item at \$0. By consensus, the Board reaffirmed a previous decision to place a Special Article on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to approve \$35,000 to rehabilitate the basketball court, leave lines #5811 and #5813 at \$0.

By consensus, the Board amended line #5027 Grant Expenses to \$500, #5314 Hired Equipment to \$7,600, and #5003 Town Administrator Salary to \$39,900.

After the Board reviewed an email from VLCT attorney Garrett Baxter regarding the Creek Road Bridge Fund, B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to change the name to Bridge Sinking Fund. Motion carried (4-1). J. McClallen voted in the minority.

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve an FY'21 budget of \$1,271,451.41 with \$882,352.78 to be raised in taxes. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Moderator Appointment. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to appoint Tammy Heffernan as Town Moderator. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Meeting Warning. Mr. Baker requested a Special Article be placed on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to appropriate up to \$66,000 for the purchase of a Highway Department excavator. He said the Town could use the Equipment Fund balance of \$46,000 for a down payment.

B. Duchesne asked if this article could be voted by Australian ballot. Attorney Tammy Heffernan responded a Town must first approve voting by Australian ballot on money questions at a Town Meeting and then it would take effect the following Town Meeting. After further discussion, P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to place a Special Article on the Warning authorizing a \$66,000 expenditure for an excavator. Motion carried (5-0).

J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to add a Special Article on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to approve all future municipal budgets and funding requests by Australian ballot. Ms. Heffernan recommended proceeding with two questions – one related to the municipal budget and a second related to all other appropriations. After further discussion, motion carried (3-2). N. Tift and R. Regula voted in the minority.

By consensus, the Board approved the Town Meeting Warning with the addition of the two Australian ballot questions and the excavator Special Article.

Public Comments. None.

Junk Ordinance Violations. By consensus, the Board approved sending Notices of Violation of the Junk Ordinance to Jerome Kennedy and Terry Weightman.

OSHA Workshop at Town Hall. By consensus, the Board approved a request from Todd Eaton of Vermont Local Roads to hold the 10-hour OSHA Workshop at Town Hall on March 19 and 26. Board members agreed all three road crew members, especially the road foreman, should attend.

Selectboard Concerns. B. Duchesne suggested using Building Funds to insulate Town Hall and replace some windows leaking cold air. He said Efficiency Vermont could perform an energy audit.

There was a discussion regarding the Stan Taylor property. By consensus, the Board approved attorney Charles Merriman's course of action outlined in his January 16th memo.

Other Business. The town administrator indicated B. Duchesne and J. McClallen would be visiting the Wallingford Block the following day to view VMS Constructions' structural work on the building as part of the Municipal Planning Grant. B. Duchesne requested a copy of the engineer's plans.

P. Pranger noted from the Recreation Committee Minutes that committee members did not want to pursue online registration of recreation events following the resignation of the recreation director.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 02/02/20