

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
June 15, 2020

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Patricia Pranger, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift. The meeting was held via audio conference call.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Michael Luzader, Trisha Nash, Ken Welch, Bill Morrisey, Cecile Betit, and David Fox.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** Tree Warden's Elfin Lake tree purchase request.

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

**Pay Orders.** P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the pay order total of \$68,256.35 after \$1,112.50 was added for David Hosely Mowing, \$15.89 for Zoom Conference Calling Services, \$400.20 for James and Jeanne Sullivan for the abatement of property tax penalty and interest, and \$393 for VLCT insurance on the excavator.

B. Duchesne asked about property mapping services. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said board members budgeted funds to update maps in FY'20, but not in FY'21.

Motion carried (5-0).

**Paving Bids.** N. Tift opened sealed paving bids from Pike Industries - \$82.50/ton with an estimated 665 tons; Wilk Paving - \$74/ton with an estimated 743 tons; and Fuller Sand and Gravel - \$65/ton with an estimated 769 tons. The road commissioner was not in attendance. The matter was tabled.

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker did not attend the meeting.

**Rutland County Sheriff's Department Agreement.** Sheriff David Fox provided an overview of Rutland County Sherriff services for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 with 715 traffic stops, 17 arrests, 7 DUIs and 1 drug arrest. There was a discussion about law enforcement coverage availability from the Vermont State Police and limited duties of the Constable.

After discussion, P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the Rutland County Sheriff Department's contract of \$85,410 for the next fiscal year. Motion carried 4-1. J. McClallen voted in the minority.

There was a request to patrol Elfin Lake.

**COVID-19; Elfin Lake.** Recreation Committee Chair Trisha Nash, who also serves as Town Health Officer, told board members the committee had voted at a recent meeting 3-1 to open Elfin Lake for the summer to Wallingford residents only.

B. Duchesne responded the Selectboard had approved a motion at a meeting in May to keep the lake closed for the summer due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns for visitors and employees. Ms. Nash said she agreed with that action, but she wanted to provide an update from a recent Recreation Committee meeting. Recreation Committee member Michael Luzader said opening the lake offered a presence that would reduce vandalism, litter, open fires and more. N. Tift said citizens calling for the lake to be opened had likely not studied the governor's orders and requirements that must be fulfilled. Ms. Nash agreed the governor's mandates were very strict. She said she believed the state and town were on the right track and she agreed with closing the lake and reducing opportunities to congregate.

**Elfin Lake Trees.** There was a discussion regarding Tree Warden Steve Pytlik's request to spend up to \$500 by June 30 at Pratico's Landscaping for two trees to plant on the Elfin Lake lawn near the edge of the beach. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve the purchase. Motion failed (2-3) with N. Tift and P. Pranger voting in the minority.

**Basketball Court.** B. Duchesne asked Michael Luzader if he had visited the basketball court in Walpole, NH using the Versacourt tile system. Mr. Luzader said he had not visited, but he had spoken to the recreation director and was told the tiles were slippery when wet and were free floating and could be removed or taken away. B. Duchesne said there was a locking mechanism. Mr. Luzader expressed concern about durability over multiple winters. He said the Recreation Committee was in favor of a full rehabilitation of the basketball court.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to go out to bid for a new basketball court with Mr. Luzader and the Recreation Committee working with the town administrator on Request for Bid documents with work to take place next spring.

N. Tift indicated the governor's orders do not allow contact sports at this time. Therefore, he said no basketball tournaments would be allowed.

N. Tift informed Mr. Luzader the governor's order still did not allow contact sports, therefore, he said a basketball tournament could not take place at Town facilities.

**Public Comments.** Cecile Betit provided an update on a Vermont House bill related to the impact power outages have on telecommunication in rural areas. She said she hoped the Rutland County Senate delegation would support legislation similar to the House bill. By consensus, the board requested the town administrator contact the county delegation urging them to support legislation similar to the House bill.

Carol Macleod asked permission for the Conservation Commission to meet at Stone Meadow on June 22 and use the Town Hall second floor as a backup. By consensus, the Board agreed with requirements visitors abide by Town Hall protocol and wear face masks, maintain safe distancing and use hand sanitizer.

Ken Welch asked if the Energy Committee could schedule a meeting at Town Hall. By consensus, the Board agreed and reminded him of Town Hall protocol.

**Town Hall Energy Audit.** There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Town Hall Energy Audit performed in April by Weatherization Works' Bill Morrisey. The audit featured estimates for energy efficiency improvements totaling \$35,300. Those costs would be in addition to the work deemed necessary following a separate energy audit conducted by Ken Welch and John Armstrong.

B. Duchesne asked about a timeframe for a return on the investment. Mr. Morrisey indicated he would look into it and provide that information in the near future. S. Switzer asked if a priority list could be developed to tackle energy efficiency projects over the next two, five and ten years. P. Pranger asked if a price list could be added to the priority list. Mr. Welch agreed to work on a priority list with estimates and then explore Efficiency Vermont incentives.

**Dog Licensing Letter.** By unanimous consent, the Board approved a letter to be sent to dog owners in Town who failed to register their pets by April 1 as state statute requires. The letter notifies them municipal tickets would be issued if registrations were not completed by June 30.

**Stormwater Master Plan Project.** A decision regarding applying for a grant to develop 100 percent of the design for a Stormwater Master Plan project was tabled until feedback was received from Fire District #1 and Mill River Unified Union School District personnel as the proposed project involved Wallingford Elementary School.

B. Duchesne expressed concern regarding potential impacts to a water line on the school property.

**Auditor Appointment.** P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to appoint Elaine Warzocha as auditor for one year. Motion carried (5-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** None.

**Other Business.** It was decided there would be no in-person employee evaluations this year.

By consensus, the Board directed the road crew to spread chloride on East Street this week.

**Employee Compensation.** P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving the town clerk and treasurer's request to pay Charlie Woods for 100 hours of his 198.5 hours of grandfathered Combined Time Off at \$20.55/hour. Motion carried (4-1). B. Duchesne voted in the minority.

It was noted there were funds in FY'20 line #5006 to cover the payment.

By consensus, the Board agreed to boost Charlie Woods hourly rate by \$1/hour when he temporarily assumes the road foreman post.

By consensus, the Board approved paying Lisa Cotrupi and Lawrie Roundy for 15 hours each at their current rate of pay for work related to the Summer Recreation Program. Payments will be made after July 1.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Date Approved:

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator