

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
July 20, 2020

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Gary Fredette, Lisa Williams, Shannon Pytlik, Kelly Dilonno, Monica DeLorme, Carolyn Behrendt, Dennis Contreau, Kathy Luzader, Patricia Bowen, Keith Shelvery, and Phil Baker.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 07/06/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 07/21/20 pay order total of \$78,321.13. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 06/30/21 pay order total of \$28,216.45. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Fuller Sand and Gravel would be paving soon. J. McClallen said roadside mowing was needed along Hartsboro Road near the intersection of Ice Bed Road. Mr. Baker agreed and said brush along Waldo Lane needed to be cut back.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer gave the road commissioner a draft Request for Proposals along with a contractor estimate provided to the Town last year for the basketball court renovation. She asked Mr. Baker to compare the documents and make recommendations so the Selectboard could review/approve the Request for Proposals at the August 3 meeting. Mr. Baker agreed. He noted he would seek an estimate from Pike Industries to install asphalt if the road crew prepares the site.

Driveway Policy. After a review of the Driveway Policy with input from the road commissioner, the Board agreed by consensus to add language as follows "The road commissioner has the final decision on the applicable angle of a driveway entry onto a Town highway(s)." Board members will revisit the Driveway Policy at the August 3 meeting.

Online Petition Submitted by Shannon Pytlik. Shannon Pytlik said P. Pranger should resign as a result of her recent social media posts directed at Ms. Pytlik and her two sons.

N. Tift confirmed receipt of the online petition and accompanying comments submitted by Ms. Pytlik. He said the Board was limited with regard to what action(s) could be taken. He said state statute does not allow an elected official to be petitioned out of office and it was up to

voters to decide at election time. He said the Board accepted the petition and would keep it on file.

Excavator Loan Documents. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to take the \$10,000 shortfall from the state Equipment Fund loan for the excavator from the FY'21 Highway Sinking Fund. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula authorizing N. Tift to sign the \$47,000 state Equipment Fund loan documents for the balance of the excavator. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comments. None.

Tax Sales. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen authorizing the delinquent tax collector to go to tax sale on the following properties: Narragansett parcel i.d. 0410548 and 0380553; Allstar Childcare parcel i.d. 7010074; Ray Blanchard parcel i.d. 1400580; Burton Burnett 0190656; Christopher Phillips 7014322; Michael Morabito 0221271; and Fairfield Whiting. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to appoint R. Regula as the Board representative for the tax sales. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board agreed the Town would not bid on any properties.

Bulk Mail Permit and Newsletter Requests. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger approving Nan Dubin's request to use the Town's bulk mail permit for a Rotary fundraiser letter. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board approved Ms. Dubin's request to include the fundraiser letter in the municipal Newsletter.

COVID-19; Elfin Lake. N. Tift said signs had been installed at access points to Elfin Lake informing citizens the municipal swim facilities were closed due to the pandemic. He acknowledged an email from Sharon Nimtz requesting the gate be unlocked and a portable restroom installed.

The town administrator said Bill Lohsen had called and offered to lock and unlock the gate daily. J. McClallen said a neighbor had requested a portable restroom be installed at the lake.

N. Tift said there was no way to sanitize it multiple times a day. He noted recently 17 cars were parked at Stone Meadow with half of the vehicles from out of state. He said he understood it was a great imposition and highly unpopular, however he added the Board was acting in the health and safety interests of citizens. R. Regula said town officials were following state guidelines and installing a portable restroom would offer the impression the municipal swim facilities were open. N. Tift said the Board was attempting to relieve the Town of any liability and he said VLCT had advised the gate be locked if the swim facilities were closed. He added the Town's health officer supported the closure.

After further discussion, J. McClallen made a motion to unlock the Elfin Lake gate. The motion died for lack of a second.

N. Tift polled board members with regard to installing a portable restroom. There was no consensus.

Zoning Administrator Resignation. The Town received two applications for the Zoning Administrator position. By consensus, the Board agreed not to appoint an interim zoning administrator. The matter will be revisited on August 3 with the planning commission's recommendation for appointment.

Planning Commission Meetings. By consensus, the Board approved a request from Erika Berner to hold in-person planning commission meetings on the second floor of Town Hall as long as all participants follow face mask, hand sanitizer, and safe distancing requirements as well as Town Hall protocol.

Green Hill Cemetery. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve Julie Sharon's request to hold the Green Hill Cemetery annual meeting via the Town Zoom account. Motion carried (5-0).

Transfer Station Punch Cards. By consensus, the Board agreed to include one 20-punch and one 50-punch card in each property tax bill to be mailed in August.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. The town administrator said Christopher Dunigan had requested audio recordings of Selectboard meetings be posted on Youtube. By consensus, the Board denied the request.

Board members agreed by consensus not to schedule in-person meetings at this time.

N. Tift announced the state had set the Homestead Education Rate at \$1.5713 and the Non-Homestead rate at \$1.5880.

Keith Shelvey arrived at the meeting and asked if the skateboard ramp request was on the agenda. The town administrator said it would be on the August 3 agenda. R. Regula said she liked the idea so far and P. Pranger agreed. Mr. Shelvey said it would be 8 feet wide, 12 feet long and 3.5 feet high at both ends.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Date Approved: 08/03/20

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator