

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 17, 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, Paul Gustafson, Paul Burroughs, Debbie Scranton, Carol Macleod and Phil Baker.

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

Agenda Amendments. Added Town Hall roof inspection by consensus.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 08/03/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 08/18/20 pay order total of \$69,814.58.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer noted the Fuller Sand and Gravel invoice of \$50,186.50 for paving a section of Hartsboro Road, Waldo Lane and all of Franklin Street did not include a section of Church Street as was listed in the paving agreement. She indicated it was about \$200 over the agreement total. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he talked to Tom Fuller and was informed the Hartsboro Road section took more tonnage than anticipated. He said Mr. Fuller indicated paving roads more frequently would require less tonnage.

The FY'21 paving budget is \$55,000. Board members agreed not to expend the additional \$5,000 due to unanticipated expense and revenue challenges as a result of the pandemic.

After further discussion, the motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Mr. Baker said he had heard a list of complaints from residents regarding roads that should be graded, including Hartsboro Road, East Street, Seward Hill Road, Sugar Hill Road, Dawson Hill Road and Bear Mountain Road. He said there were also complaints about roadside brush on East Street. He said he would instruct Charlie Woods to grade those roads, while Kyle Eastman could haul winter sand.

Board members reminded Mr. Baker that Steve Lanfear could return to work once his physician provided a note that he was fit for full duty.

Paul Gustafson suggested a roller attachment on the grader would cut down on the amount of grading required. Board members reviewed a Grants in Aid document provided by the town administrator that covered 80 percent of equipment purchases, included roller attachments. By consensus, the Board agreed the Town should pursue the grant after Mr. Baker does some research on the roller attachment and approves the purchase with the Town's share not to exceed \$2,000 (to come out of the unexpended paving funds).

The town administrator indicated the Grants in Aid project for Van Wyck, Parker and Hawkins road segments must be completed by October 15 with all documentation submitted or the Town would not be reimbursed.

Public Comments. Paul Burroughs said a light fixture installed on a pole near Kelly's Snackbar on the Shaw Auto property illuminated Route 7, his property and a neighbor's property. He said trying to take a right hand turn onto Route 7 was difficult because of the light. He requested Green Mountain Power be asked to redirect the light.

After further discussion, J. McClallen said he would visit the Shaw property at night to observe the light illuminated and then contact a GMP official if necessary.

Mr. Gustafson asked why the Residential education tax rate was higher than the Non-residential rate. Board members responded the state not the Town sets the education tax rates. J. McClallen said he thought the rates should be equal. A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Gustafson was encouraged to contact Rutland County senators and the district's representatives to share his concerns.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Board members acknowledged receipt of the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The document was submitted to the Planning Commission on August 10. No written comments were submitted by Planning Commission members to the Selectboard by the August 17 deadline.

Stone Meadow Bike Jumps/Trails. Carol Macleod was seeking clarification regarding a directive from the Selectboard about bike activities at Stone Meadow in response to VLCT Wade Masure's recommendations. She asked if all bike activities should be separated from walking/hiking trails or just the bike jumps.

B. Duchesne responded bike trails should be separated from hiking trails based on Mr. Masure's report. N. Tift said the bike jumps were problematic. J. McClallen said he thought the main trail from the parking lot to the lake was suitable for bikes, but he added there should be no bikes on the rest of the trails.

Ms. Macleod said the Conservation Commission was working on a plan that would allow interested parties to construct bike jumps in an area south of the current jumps that was separate from walking/hiking trails.

Debbie Scranton said bike enthusiasts who attended the Conservation Commission's meeting in June were asked to develop a map or proposal featuring jumps and trails so the Selectboard could visualize their plans. She said no plan has been submitted.

B. Duchesne indicated bike trails ran parallel or were separated from hiking trails at Pine Hill Park in Rutland.

Ms. Macleod said the Conservation Commission would be meeting again next week and will keep the Board updated.

Zoning Administrator. The town administrator said the Zoning Administrator advertisement would be running three times in the Rutland Herald with an August 31 application deadline. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Parental and Family Leave in the Employee Handbook. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to follow VLCT Jill Muhr's recommendation to remove the Parental and Family Leave section from the Employee Handbook. Motion carried (5-0).

AT&T Cell Tower. By consensus, the Board agreed not to respond to AT&T's letter seeking to renegotiate the five year cell tower lease with three years still remaining.

Selectboard September Meeting. By consensus, the Board agreed to move the first meeting in September from Labor Day to Tuesday, September 8.

Selectboard Concerns. R. Regula asked if anyone had driven past the Jerry Kennedy property on Railroad Street that was the subject of a junk complaint. J. McClallen said he had noticed a lot of the junk had been removed. R. Regula agreed it was better, although she said she wished more would be removed or screened.

P. Pranger said she had read in the Recreation Committee Minutes that members felt the Selectboard did not want to pursue improvements to the basketball court as it was in a floodplain. She clarified the Board wanted to raise the level of the court as recommended by the road commissioner since it was below grade and water does not drain off it.

Town Hall Roof. By consensus, the Board agreed to expend \$250 for an annual slate roof inspection of Town Hall.

Other Business. The town administrator provided an update of the documents forwarded to Steve Lanfear for short term disability. Mr. Lanfear needs to complete one section and his physician must complete one section.

B. Duchesne said he had read the E911 documents related to power outages and had no comments to submit to the state Public Service Board.

Board members agreed Attorney Charles Merriman should provide the Town with an official notice of the status of the Stan Taylor house location issue rather than rely on an email from a Tinmouth official.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Date Approved: 09/08/20

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator