

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
January 4, 2021

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, Phil Baker, Steve Lanfear, Kyle Eastman, Julie Sharon, Ron Cioffi, Tom Donahue, Chris Adams, Amber Dumas, and Gary Fredette.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift called the Selectboard meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to enter executive session with Steve Lanfear, Kyle Eastman and Phil Baker at 5:46 p.m. for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(4). The town administrator was included. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to exit executive session at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

The regular portion of the meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** By consensus, the Board added review of NCER Amendment 3 for the electronic waste agreement.

**Minutes.** P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 12/21/20 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 01/05/21 pay order total of \$37,525.49. Motion (5-0).

**NCER.** B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to authorize N. Tift to sign the National Center for Electronic Recycling's Amendment 3 to the Standard Plan agreement. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker suggested ordering a set of chains for the grader (\$696) and the 2014 Kenworth (\$579). After some discussion, the Board by consensus agreed. There was a discussion about plowing Kent Farm Road and Wallingford Pond Road. Mr. Baker said there were a couple of washouts on December 25. He added he unplugged numerous culverts on Hawkins, West Hill and other roads with the assistance of his wife, Patty.

**Non-Profit Funding Requests.** N. Tift said he preferred not seeing people from non-profit groups canvassing the Town for petition signatures in response to the Board's decision not to fund some of the requests. He acknowledged it was heartbreaking to eliminate groups from the FY'22 budget, but he said decisions were made as a result of the economic impact on

revenues and expenditures due to the pandemic. He said residents had lost jobs or were working reduced hours and he added some people were finding it difficult to pay their property taxes and even put food on their tables.

BROC Executive Director Tom Donahue said his agency had assisted 67 local citizens with heating oil assistance, home weatherization needs, electricity payments and more this past year resulting in a \$31,000 investment in Wallingford. He added BROC installed a ramp at Wallingford Thrift. He encouraged board members to reconsider BROC's \$500 request.

N. Tift responded the Town was looking at a deficit of \$25,000 in Ordinance fines and was unsure about other state aid. He said whatever was included in the FY'22 budget would have to be raised in taxes. He suggested non-profit groups post donation requests on Front Porch Forum and in the Town's newsletter.

Ron Cioffi of VNA & Hospice thanked the Town for past contributions and requested the Board reconsider for FY'23. N. Tift said board members would consider it again next year.

Chris Adams from Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging expressed appreciation for past support and, likewise, asked to be considered for FY'23.

Amber Dumas provided an overview of Child First Advocacy's work around the region and urged the Town to support the agency next year.

Gary Fredette said these organizations provided valuable resources to the Town and asked the Board to reconsider all requests for FY'22.

**Public Comments.** None.

**FY'22 Revenue.** Board members agreed on the following: #4503 \$15,000 Estimated and \$17,000 Budget; #4505 \$4,000; #4513 \$4,000; #4514 \$20,000; #4515 \$1,000; #4545 \$0; #4547 \$0; #4548 \$0 #4549 \$0. No changes were made to Revenue lines pre-filled by the town clerk and treasurer.

**FY'22 Administration.** By consensus, the Board agreed to budget 2 percent across the board raises for employees. They further agreed on the following: #5000 \$150; 5001 \$5,100; #5002-A \$2,000; #5002-B \$7,000; #5002-C \$2,000 (property maps); #5002-G \$15,000.

By consensus, the Board agreed to the Zoning Administrator's request to purchase a fire proof filing cabinet at an estimated \$1,549. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to be pay for the cabinet out of the Building Fund. Motion carried (5-0).

The Board agreed to: #5004 \$5,100; #5004-A \$300; #5010 \$1,800; #5007 \$13,400; #5026 \$200; #5027 \$0; #5041 \$250.

**FY'22 Insurance.** By consensus, the Board budgeted \$115,000 for all municipal insurances (liability, unemployment, health, etc.) on line #5025. This estimate was a decrease of \$14,500 from FY'21. The town administrator said it was a challenge to estimate insurance rate increases in 2022.

**Transfer Station Fees.** Following a review of transfer station fees after a comparison with other towns, the Board agreed by consensus to increase the following fees effective March

1, 2021: 30-gallon bag 4 punches, smaller bags 2 punches; pickup truck 4-foot box \$25, 6-foot box \$40 and 8-foot box \$50 with a dump truck \$90. Tires will cost \$5 for passenger, \$7 for truck no rim, \$19 for oversized, and \$47 for tractor.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.** The Board had no objections to updates made by Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Steffanie Bourque in response to state review recommendations.

**Budget Letter.** Board members approved a budget letter to citizens drafted by Selectboard member Bruce Duchesne.

**Property Tax Due Dates.** By consensus, the Board agreed property tax payments would be physically due at Town Hall on due dates with postmarks not accepted.

**Selectboard Concerns.** J. McClallen asked about use of funds in money markets and CDs. There was a discussion about including the \$14,000 Recreation CD on a Revenue line. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said board members had reduced Capital, Field Maintenance and other line items in the Recreation budget and informed Recreation Committee members the CD could cover associated expenses. The Board will revisit the matter at the next meeting.

**Other Business.** None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Date Approved: 01/18/21

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator