

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
February 15, 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, Steffanie Bourque, Dale Davenport, Carol Macleod, Debbie Scranton, and Gary Fredette.

**Executive Session.** B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to enter executive session at 6:08 p.m. with Steve Lanfear for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(4). The town administrator was asked to join. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to exit executive session at 6:30 p.m. By consensus, the Board agreed to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 02/01/21 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 02/16/21 pay order total of \$17,882.37. B. Duchesne asked for clarification regarding the Hubbard invoice. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Foreman Steve Lanfear detailed recent repairs to the 2014 Kenworth. He noted the 2016 Kenworth needs to have the oil pan replaced.

P. Pranger asked about the Tier II report. Mr. Lanfear said he had conducted a thorough review and there were no changes from last year. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked if there were additional lead batteries at the town garage with the purchase of the new equipment. Mr. Lanfear responded said there was no change in quantity as some older vehicles were out of commission or no longer at the garage. The town administrator indicated she would print out a final Tier II report for Mr. Lanfear's signature and submission.

P. Pranger asked about a bridge/culvert project for the VTrans Structures' grant. The road foreman said he did not have a recommendation at this time. By consensus, the Board agreed the Town should resubmit the grant application for the Maple Street bridge retaining wall repair project.

Road Commissioner Phil Baker arrived at the meeting. He recommended the town purchase chains for the loader. After a brief discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to spend up to \$800 on chains.

**Vulnerable Population Protocol.** Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Steffanie Bourque provided an overview of the Vulnerable Population Protocol social services and emergency management directors would use in the event of an emergency. She indicated this information would be incorporated into the Town's annual Local Emergency Operation Plan as an annex. She said it would build on the relationship between municipalities and social services.

Board members had no objections.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to adopt the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried (4-1). J. McClallen voted in the minority.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Basketball Court Coating and Lines.** Board members reviewed estimates from VT Recreational Surfacing and Fencing and Advantage Tennis to coat, line and seal cracks at the municipal basketball court off Meadow Street.

VT Recreational estimated \$4,527 for coating, \$5,525 for new basketball hoops/backboard/mounting system, \$3,058 to seal cracks.

Advantage Tennis estimated \$5,076 for coating, \$5,600 for new basketball hoop systems, \$1,750 to seal cracks. It was noted Advantage Tennis had sealed the cracks on the tennis court five years ago and the cracks had not surfaced.

N. Tift noted these costs would be in addition to the paving contract awarded in December to Pike Industries in the amount of \$22,800 for the basketball court.

There was a discussion about replacing just the backboards and not the full systems.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to accept low bidder Advantage Tennis' quote of \$5,076 for coating and lines along with \$1,750 for sealing the cracks. Motion carried (5-0).

Board members agreed to seek a price at a later date to replace the backboards.

**Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee Appointments.** After a discussion with Conservation Commissioners Carol Macleod and Debbie Scranton, J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to appoint Rodney Ward and Nick Bresinsky to the Conservation Commission. Motion carried (5-0).

J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to appoint Cassie Ahearn to the Recreation Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

**Rodgers Farm Road.** E911 Co-Coordinator Dale Davenport said a state E911 official, Tyler Hermanson, notified the Town there were two West Hill Road addresses that were actually on Rodgers Farm Road. She said the E911 Committee suggested renaming that section of road as West Hill Road rather than require the homeowners to change their addresses. She further suggested naming an untraveled portion of West Hill Road as Tinmouth Pond Trail.

By consensus, the Board agreed. Ms. Davenport said she would notify Mr. Hermanson.

**Letter to Wallingford Standard.** Board members reviewed a letter submitted by Patricia Halford and John McTaggart regarding transfer station operations during the pandemic to be published in the Wallingford Standard.

N. Tift indicated the five members of the Selectboard could be contacted by telephone, email and/or at public meetings to address citizens' concerns rather than publishing an open letter to the town. He said transfer station employees were satisfied with the way the facility operates. By consensus, the Board agreed the newsletter was not the forum for public debate.

**Summer Hires.** Board members agreed to accept applications for summer posts even though no decisions would be made at this time regarding which, if any, programs would run or whether Elfin Lake would open due to the pandemic.

**Mowing Bids.** Board members reviewed seasonal mowing estimates from F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping, Carpenter and Costin, Intrinsic Property Management, and Charles Johnson. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to accept low bidder F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping's estimate. Motion carried (5-0).

**NEMRC.** By consensus, the Board approved NEMRC's licensing and software agreements for the next 12 months.

**Selectboard Concerns.** J. McClallen said the Town should have a pool of names to substitute at the transfer station as needed. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she had spoken to Jim Regula about this matter and he would provide a list of names and contact information.

R. Regula thanked J. McClallen for filling in this past week at the transfer station.

P. Pranger said she sent a note to Michelle Kenny congratulating her on being awarded tax credits for revitalizing the Odd Fellows Block.

B. Duchesne noted there had been discussions at Conservation and Recreation meetings related to the possible purchase of land behind the fire station for recreational purposes. He said it was landlocked and the fire department officials may not want visitors parking in their lot to access the land. He questioned spending municipal funds on an appraisal. J. McClallen said it would be difficult to build trails to access potential fishing or swimming holes. R. Regula agreed access would be a safety concern.

**Other Business.** P. Pranger asked that VTrans documents related to helipad restrictions be forwarded to the planning commission. The town administrator said she had sent them to Erika Berner, the zoning administrator and planning chair.

Board members reviewed year end financials. B. Duchesne asked when money would be put into the Building Fund. The town administrator said in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Date Approved: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator