

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
June 21, 2021

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, Kathy Luzader, John McClallen, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Trisha Nash, Dan Samson, Joyce Bailey, Art Peterson, Sheriff David Fox, Michael Luzader, Joyce Barbieri, Anthony Fahoury and Chris Hayes via speakerphone.

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

Agenda Amendments. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer added West Hill Cemetery (at the request of Julie Sharon) and a lifeguard application. By consensus, the items were added to the agenda.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to approve the 06/07/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained as she was not in attendance.

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 06/22/21 pay order total of \$72,960.42 after the following additions: \$80 for Awesome Graphics; \$6,826 for Advantage Tennis; \$179.99 and \$43.98 for LaValley's; and \$40 for Endyne Lab.

B. Duchesne questioned the \$340 for the Conservation Commission CD. It was decided those funds should roll into the general fund. The pay order total was revised to \$72,620.42. Motion carried (5-0).

Building Committee. Joyce Barbieri gave a summary of the Building Committee's first meeting. Rob Stubbins was elected chair and the group conducted a tour of Town Hall. The committee will wait on appointing a clerk of the works to follow up on the first project.

Water at Ballfield. Simond's Operation Chris Hayes joined via speakerphone. There was an extensive discussion regarding the steps needed to install a water fountain at the ballfield as requested by Recreation Committee members. Mr. Hayes indicated the Town would need to hire a contractor to install a meter along with the work detailed in Bill Lohsen's \$995 estimate, the meter would need to be removed each winter, water usage fees, and the Town would be responsible for excavation. Road Commissioner Phil Baker expressed concern about potential leaks at the ballfield impacting the newly paved basketball court and R. Regula cautioned recent vandalism at the Elfin Lake public beach could possibly spread to the ballfield. B. Duchesne indicated a public water supply at the ballfield had been vandalized in the past.

N. Tift asked Art Peterson whether youngsters brought water with them to football games and practices. Mr. Peterson confirmed they did. N. Tift asked Recreation Committee Chair Trisha Nash to explore a water supply inside the shed that could be unlocked for games and practices.

After further discussion, the matter was tabled with no action taken.

Rutland County Sheriff Department Agreement. Sheriff David Fox presented a 12-month agreement totaling \$86,254 for 40 hours per week coverage.

After some discussion, N. Tift advised the sheriff to revise the agreement to 20-25 hours per week. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

West Hill Cemetery. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon requested permission to spend the remaining \$700 tree budget to hire Rob Barker to trim trees at the West Hill Cemetery. By consensus, the Board approved.

Lifeguard Application. After reviewing Ethan Kenney's application, the Board agreed to extend a job offer for weekend lifeguard duties at the Elfin Lake public beach if he obtains lifeguard certification by July 9.

Public Comments. Michael Luzader requested permission to use the basketball court as a staging area for Wallingford Day entertainment. Board members directed him to use the lawn and not the court as they did not want any damage to the newly paved surface. Mr. Luzader asked about placing the balance of funds approved by voters to upgrade the basketball court into a sinking fund. B. Duchesne noted establishment of sinking funds must be approved by voters. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the total for sealing cracks, paving and painting the basketball court was just under \$30,000.

Dan Samson said sidewalks on Depot Street and School Street were in desperate need of attention. He expressed concern about municipal liability should someone be injured as a result of the sidewalk conditions. He also noted a lack of maintenance by property owners who allow shrubs to overhang sidewalks. There was a discussion regarding whether the Town or Fire District #1 was responsible for sidewalks. Board members agreed to explore the matter with VLCT's Wade Masure.

Joyce Bailey asked about trees thrown in the brook, fires and late night activities at the Bailey House owned by Trisha Nash. Ms. Bailey asked if local permits were needed. K. Luzader suggested it was a zoning matter. Ms. Nash said it was a rental property for people in need of support and there were seven people renting rooms there. She said she would be willing to speak to Ms. Bailey in private to address any concerns.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the 2016 Kenworth had an oil leak issue. He said he informed the road crew daily hours were 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. five days a week.

The town administrator shared a road drainage complaint near Serenity House.

Paving Bids. Paving bids submitted for Route 140W, Church Street and Olde Pine Lane included:

Wilk Paving at \$67.93/ton with 1221 tons on Route 140W and 864 tons on the other two roads. Pike Industries bid \$79.80/ton with 1723 total tonnage on all three roads.

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to award the 2021 paving contract to Wilk Paving as the low bidder. Motion carried (5-0).

Flag Football. By consensus, the Board approved Art Peterson's request to run a flag football program at the ballfield starting August 16 with Mr. Peterson responsible for obtaining releases from all participants.

Recreation Committee Recommendations. There was a discussion regarding the Recreation Committee's recommendation to seek a state grant for design and construction of a retaining wall at the Elfin Lake public beach. N. Tift said he was hesitant about inviting the state into this matter. Mr. Baker agreed and advised the Town to proceed with the plan agreed at the last meeting to include logs installed near the beach along with a rain garden. He also said more effective downspouts and gutters on the Concession Stand may help with drainage.

Mr. Luzader expressed concern those were temporary measures that would not address the underlying erosion issues. N. Tift cautioned new construction could trigger the state's 250-foot Shoreline regulations.

After further discussion, R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to deny permission for the Recreation Committee to pursue the grant. Motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Luzader urged the Board to approve the Recreation Committee's recommendation to appoint Shannon Pytlik to the committee. N. Tift indicated there were no vacancies. There was a brief discussion regarding expanding the committee to seven members. It was noted there were issues at times achieving a quorum and that was the reason for reducing the committee size to five members. Mr. Luzader offered to resign to make room for Ms. Pytlik.

By consensus, the Board agreed to spend up to \$400 for security cameras at the Elfin Lake public beach as a result of a series of vandalism incidences in recent weeks.

Unregistered Dogs. By consensus, the Board agreed to issue municipal tickets to pet owners who failed to register their dogs by April 1. Tickets would be issued for each pet not registered.

First Meeting in July. By consensus, the Board moved the first meeting next month to Tuesday, July 6.

Selectboard Designate to the Gilbert Hart Library Board of Trustees. A suggestion was made to offer the library trustee post to Gary or Patty Fredette. This item was tabled.

Other Business. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve rolling over 70 hours of vacation time for the town administrator into the next fiscal year. Motion carried (5-0). It was further agreed the town administrator would work two days a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) at Town Hall and two days a week remotely.

American Recovery Plan Act. The town administrator asked whether the Board would be interested in holding a public forum to gather input from citizens regarding American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$204,000. This matter was tabled until VLCT could respond to a request to host the forum.

Selectboard Concerns. By consensus, the Board approved Ms. Luzader's request to invite food trucks to Wallingford Day.

B. Duchesne cautioned the Wallingford Day group should explore fireworks restrictions and permit issues.

N. Tift thanked Wallingford Thrift for the \$1,000 donation to the Summer Recreation Program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator Date Approved: 07/06/21