

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
July 19, 2021

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Joyce Barbieri, Michael Luzader, and Monica DeLorme.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. None.

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

Pay Orders. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the pay order total of \$22,120.49 after \$225.00 was added for Seven Days advertising.

B. Duchesne asked about payments to Wallingford Day musical groups since the event was rescheduled. K. Luzader said payments would not be made until they performed. B. Duchesne said he would like to see the Town of Wallingford get out of the business of acting as a bank for groups. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon responded donations were made to the Town on behalf of Wallingford Day, so the Town pays the bills.

Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

Public Comments. Building Committee member Joyce Barbieri indicated Jay White requested municipal officials wait to repair Town Hall window sills until he writes an RFP.

Preliminary Year End Financials. J. Sharon said FY'21 would end with an \$18,508.84 loss, which represented less than a half cent increase on the municipal tax rate. She noted the education homestead tax rate had dropped.

By consensus, the Board approved the 06/30/21 pay order.

The Board reviewed the Reserve Fund report with account balances. B. Duchesne said board members indicated at budget time the Recreation CD (\$14,584) would be used for expenses as sinking funds could not be created without voter approval. J. Sharon said the Recreation CD would cover Recreation expenses for FY'22 and then it would be closed out by June 30, 2022.

Michael Luzader raised concerns Recreation Committee initiatives were being denied and he cited water at the ballfield and basketball hoops 4 inches lower than regulation height as two examples. R. Regula responded visitors should bring their own water to the ballfield as the

spigot was vandalized in the past and COVID-19 created health concerns for public water fountains.

Board members indicated Recreation Chair Trisha Nash attended the June 21 meeting to discuss water at the ballfield and she was directed to explore costs to install a system inside the locked shed with a spigot running to the outside. M. Luzader said he was unaware of that update and would look into it. N. Tift commented the shed had been left unlocked on multiple occasions, which could lead to further vandalism of any water system inside the structure.

There was a discussion about the \$5,120.81 balance of the \$35,000 approved by voters for the basketball court rehabilitation. M. Luzader said a basketball court maintenance fund should be established with the balance. J. Sharon said she would check with VLCT on reserving the unspent funds and requested Board approval to take action pending VLCT's recommendation. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to move the \$5,120.81 into a reserve fund should VLCT agree. Motion carried (5-0).

Transfer Station Punch Cards. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to distribute one (1) 50-punch card and one (1) 20-punch card in each property tax bill as has been done in the past.

M. Luzader asked why there was a jump in prices at the transfer station. R. Regula said expenses far outpaced income resulting in the increase. N. Tift said the Town had not raised prices in many years. Motion carried (5-0).

Homestead Declaration Penalty. By consensus, the Board agreed to make no changes to the Homestead Declaration Penalty levied on taxpayers.

Town Hall Lighting. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve Jeff Duchesne's estimate of \$60 each for 10 exit lights and \$130 each for 11 emergency lights (labor included on prices) at Town Hall. Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

American Recovery Plan Act. By consensus, the Board scheduled a public forum for Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. to gather input from citizens on American Recovery Plan Act funds totaling \$204,000 (two payments of \$102,000 over two years) with federal restrictions on usage.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she learned from VLCT that funds could be used to insulate the Town Hall basement because it housed the food shelf. Funds could be used to compensate the municipality for loss of revenue due to COVID-19 as well as water/sewer/broadband projects. The town administrator suggested wifi hotspots at Town Hall for public usage. Funds could not be used for sidewalk maintenance or paving/bridge projects.

Monica DeLorme said ARPA funds could be made available to businesses in the village who lost revenue during the pandemic. Joyce Barbieri cautioned the Town may be required to conduct an expensive audit as a result of accepting federal funds.

Selectboard concerns. Board members agreed to invite Prudential Committee member Bill Brooks to the August 2 meeting to discuss sidewalk maintenance.

Other Business. There was a discussion regarding Kyle Eastman's request to be paid for FY'22 unused vacation days. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to pay Kyle Eastman the balance of his two weeks of vacation days. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 08/02/21