

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
September 7, 2021

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Carol Macleod, Eric Davenport, Steve Lynch, Janice Lynch, James Bennick, Michael Hughes, and Erika Berner.

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

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, a Grants in Aid Agreement; Ballfield Security, ARPA Funds were added.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 08/17/21 Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader did not vote as she was not at the meeting.

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 08/30/21 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the pay order total of \$18,503.04. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Regula noted the \$500 fee for bus transportation to White's Pool for the Summer Recreation Program. B. Duchesne also questioned the cost to transport children from Elfin Lake to a city pool. N. Tift suggested program coordinators be more selective with field trips.

Road Commissioner Report. None.

Public Comments. Eric Davenport requested a response to his letter expressing concerns related to roadside mowing on East Street. He said the last roadside mowing in that area was in the 1980s. B. Duchesne responded he drove up there after reading Mr. Davenport's letter and agreed something needed to be done. He said the Board had discussed budgeting for a tree service and additional equipment to tackle roadside mowing projects. Mr. Davenport said some of the brush could be pulled up with the excavator and the Highway Department could use his gravel pit for disposal.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she had spoken to Road Commissioner Phil Baker, who explained the Highway Department would address his concerns in the fall after grant work had been completed. Mr. Baker asked that Mr. Davenport contact him directly.

Janice and Steven Lynch expressed concerns regarding the Hartsboro Solar, LLC proposal. Janice Lynch said the property had been used as an unlicensed junkyard impacting wetlands. Steven Lynch said there were deed restrictions on the property. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner said the full petition would be filed with the Public Utility Commission soon and

reviewed by both municipal and regional planning commissions. K. Luzader reiterated the Lynch's request of the Selectboard to seek transparency from developers, inquire about future plans for the property, and understand environmental impacts.

Ballfield Security. N. Tift provided an overview of the fence vandalized at the Meadow Street ballfield over the weekend. He said the Town would file an insurance claim.

Rutland County Sheriff Department's James Bennick implored residents to contact the sheriff immediately by dialing 911 when witnessing a crime or suspicious behavior. He advised installing motion sensor lights and good quality security cameras. He added gating off the ballfield each night would limit access.

N. Tift directed the town administrator to contact Pratico's Landscaping and Fencing for an estimate to repair/replace the fence for the insurance claim.

Coin Drop. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve the Wallingford Fire Department's request to hold a coin drop on October 9 with a rain date of October 10. Motion approved (5-0).

Town Hall Request for Proposal – Exterior Trim Painting. By consensus, the Board approved a Request for Proposal submitted by the Building Committee for Town Hall exterior trim painting and window sealing.

Revised Zoning Regulations. E. Berner provided an overview of the updated Zoning Regulation timeline with a planning commission public hearing in November, submission of the document to the Selectboard in December, a Selectboard public hearing in January, and a townwide vote in March.

Fireworks Permits. By consensus, the Board agreed to a two-step approval process for permitting firework displays as follows: the request with completed checklist would be submitted to the fire chief for initial approval; the fire chief would then submit the checklist and permit form to the Selectboard at least 21 days prior to the event if everything was in order; the Selectboard would either approve or deny the request.

By consensus, the Board authorized N. Tift to sign a permit for a firework display at the White Rocks Barn on September 18. In the future, full Board approval would be needed on all firework requests.

By consensus, the Board agreed not to charge fees for firework permits.

COVID-19 Requirements for Municipal Properties. The Board agreed by consensus on a mask mandate for Town Hall and restricting public access to the town garage and transfer station office. Masks are not required for visitors to the transfer station with safe distancing recommended.

VLCT Delegate for Annual Meeting. N. Tift suggested the town administrator attend webinars and serve as municipal delegate.

Selectboard concerns. K. Luzader asked whether ARPA funds could be used for cybersecurity.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to accept Jay White's resignation from the Building Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

Other Business. None.

ARPA Funds. By consensus, the Board approved the town clerk and treasurer's request to transfer a \$189,479.45 ARPA payment from the general account to an ARPA Fund account at Community Bank.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Date Approved: 09/20/21

Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator