

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 21, 2019

Selectboard Members Present: Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette, Rose Regula, Mark Tessier, and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Jay Kenlan, Elysa Smigielski, and Michelle Kenny.

Chair B. Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. Sign Equipment Note.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 01/07/19 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving the pay order total of \$31,448.93. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker recommended the board sign the Certificate of Highway Miles with no changes. The road commissioner said there were no Special Weights to report to the state.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said a West Hill Road resident contacted Town Hall employees to thank the road crew for the work on the road this winter.

The road commissioner said the road crew would be opening up Kent Farm Road for a logging operation. He said they would be clearing a section on West Hill Road for another logging operation.

B. Brooks asked Mr. Baker to clear snow from the Route 7 and 140 intersection. Mr. Baker agreed and indicated he would haul snow to the municipal property near the tennis court.

There was a discussion about posting signs near the sidewalk by Cumberland Farms to deter motorists from parking trucks on the sidewalk. Mr. Baker said it would require state permits and fees. He said he would explore adding signs on existing posts nearby.

G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier for board members to sign the Certificate of Highway Miles with no changes. Motion carried (5-0).

By unanimous consent, board members agreed there were no special weights to report.

Public Comments. Jay Kenlan informed the board his house was on the market for sale and he would be moving to Rutland. He indicated he had served as Town Moderator for 36 years and would miss the post. He added the Selectboard performed admirably during his tenure and townspeople had no idea the contribution board

members made to the community. B. Brooks thanked Mr. Kenlan for his decades of service to the community.

Wallingford Rescue Tax Stabilization Article Request. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to put an article on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to approve tax stabilization for a five year period for Wallingford Rescue. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Meeting Warning. There was a discussion regarding adding articles to the Warning asking voters whether to approve budgets and special articles by Australian ballot. Board members decided to get a sense from voters under “Other Business” at Town Meeting this year and possibly adding the articles to the Warning next year.

After further discussion, G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Warning without Australian ballot articles. Motion carried (5-0).

FY’20 Budget. There was a discussion regarding how much of the FEMA reimbursement funds would be used to reduce taxes in the FY’20 budget. By unanimous consent, the board agreed to use \$20,000 to reduce taxes.

There was a brief discussion regarding how the balance of the FEMA reimbursement should be used. G. Fredette suggested purchasing a roadside mower. No decision was made.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve a budget of \$1,215,244.50 requiring \$821,589.58 to be raised in taxes. Motion carried (5-0).

Municipal Planning Grant Agreement. Board members reviewed a revised agreement between the Town and Michelle Kenny regarding her responsibility for the \$2200 local match of the \$24,200 municipal planning grant awarded to the Town for the Wallingford Block.

N. Tift said he wanted a “hold harmless” clause on behalf of the Town added to the agreement.

S. Switzer noted there were grant progress report deadlines, documentation requirements, submission requirements and grant closeout requirements. Elysa Smigielski said the Town did not have to involve Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce as she was working with Ms. Kenny.

S. Switzer asked who would draft Request for Proposals. Ms. Smigielski said she had samples. G. Fredette reviewed the Town’s Purchasing Policy and noted multiple estimates were required.

B. Brooks said he had no objection to the Town signing the agreement after town attorney review. By consensus, the board agreed the Town should submit the first requisition.

Other Business. S. Switzer asked Ms. Kenny if the Recreation Committee had made any decisions regarding funding for basketball court improvements. She responded the committee did not have a quorum at the January meeting and, therefore, did not vote on whether to request an article on the Town Meeting Warning.

Ms. Kenny said attendance at some committee meetings were an issue as they were down to six members following the resignation of Anthony Cirelli. The board directed the town administrator to send a letter to a recreation committee member who was not attending meetings asking whether that member intended to resign.

Certificate of Appointment. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier for board members to sign a Certificate of Appointment authorizing William Brooks to act as town agent at the January 23, 2019 closing on the 1631 Route 103 property being sold to Keith Hawkins. Motion carried (4-0). B. Brooks abstained.

Property Map Maintenance Agreement. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula approving a one year property map maintenance agreement with Dean Russell Graphics in the amount of \$1650. Motion carried (4-1). N. Tift voted in the minority.

Monthly Newsletter Mailings. There was a discussion regarding a request to waive copier fees for a townwide mailing of monthly newsletters during a three month trial. N. Tift donated the balance of his Selectboard salary to cover copying fees for the trial period.

Town Hall Cleaning Service. Board members reviewed estimates from Fawn Davenport and Sarah Seward for Town Hall cleaning services. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to hire Sarah Seward. Motion carried (5-0).

Equipment Note. By consensus, the board approved signing the Highway Equipment Note of \$57,545 for the new one ton truck. The note requires three equal annual payments at a 2.55% fixed rate of interest.

Selectboard Concerns. M. Tessier said he would not be serving on the fire protection committee next year. He said too many residents have no option to vote on large purchases.

G. Fredette said too much of the Rutland County Sheriff Department coverage was afternoon and late at night. N. Tift said he had an extensive conversation with the sheriff and they guaranteed the coverage once the Town goes to 40 hours a week in July.

By consensus, the board approved Slate Valley Electric's price of \$1060 to replace 64 bulbs in the second floor ceiling lights, install dimmers, and install a doorbell at the side entrance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.
Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Date Approved: 02/04/19