

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
September 23, 2019

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, John McClallen, Patricia Pranger, Rose Regula and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Kate Wanner, Deb Scranton, Marc Pramuk, Mark Barone, David Francomb, Pat Stone, Steve Lanfear, Lynn Edmunds, Susan Filskov, Rob Filskov, Theresa Ahlers, Robert Ahlers, Ray Gizzi, Kim Jones, Bruce Jones, Nate Rand, Jeremy Krohn, Mark Tessier, Doug Blodgett, Kim Blodgett, Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimitz, and Karl Ross.

Chair N. Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, Records Management Policy was tabled until the October 7 meeting.

Minutes. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 09/09/19 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen approving the pay order total of \$32,213.50 after \$220 was added for Fawn Davenport's town hall and town garage cleaning services in August and September. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said work on Van Wyck Bridge was ongoing and that state Agency of Natural Resources Josh Carvajal was on site during work in the stream and was satisfied with the results.

Road Foreman Steve Lanfear said he had graded West Hill and Sugar Hill Roads. There were questions about grading Waldo Lane as well as the Wallingford Lodge Road. By consensus, the Board agreed Wallingford Lodge Road would be graded in the spring with any material invoices sent directly to Fire District #1 and not the Town.

By consensus, the Board directed Mr. Lanfear to attend the October 22 required training related to Reasonable Suspicion Testing.

By consensus, the Board agreed the road crew would deliver wood chips to the playground off Meadow Street on October 22 before 8:30 a.m.

Loader/Excavation Bid Review. After some discussion, this matter was tabled until the October 7 meeting.

Green Mt. National Forest Acquisition of Fernfield Farm Property. N. Tift indicated comments submitted to the Town to date ran 23-5 in favor of the sale of 481 acres of Fernfield Farm property to Green Mountain National Forest. B. Duchesne said he had

been approached by four people opposed to it, J. McClallen said three people told him they were opposed, and R. Regula said four or five people told her they were in favor of the sale.

B. Duchesne expressed concern regarding the loss of municipal as well as education tax revenue. J. McClallen said he would be opposed to the sale unless a portion of the proceeds would go into a trust similar to one established in 1993 that offset the loss of tax revenue when Fernfield Farm property was acquired by GMNF at that time.

Kate Wanner from The Trust for Public Land said there was a willing seller and a willing buyer of the property. She asked who the Board would like to hear from in order to verify the education tax figures.

David Francomb, District Ranger for the Manchester District of the Green Mt. National Forest, responded to a question regarding trail configurations for the new property by indicating the land could not be acquired with encumbrances, but he said GMNF would be willing to work with volunteer groups on setting up a trail network. Jeremy Krohn, Doug Blodgett, Kim Blodgett, Deb Scranton and Karl Ross spoke in favor of the acquisition. Lynn Edmunds cautioned the loss of education tax revenue was sizable and the matter should be Warned for a townwide vote. He added no decision should be made without all the facts. Marc Pramuk said 44 acres were donated to the Town in 1919 that became the Wallingford Lodge, Elfin Lake and Stone Meadow. He said if Town officials opposed the transfer of private land to a public entity at that time then the Town would not have those assets.

N. Tift conducted an informal poll of board members with N. Tift and R. Regula in support of the sale, B. Duchesne and J. McClallen opposed, and P. Pranger neutral.

The matter was tabled until the October 7 meeting.

Taylor Property. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said attorney Charles Merriman provided a brief update indicating an agreement was being worked out between the towns of Tinmouth and Wallingford along with Stan Taylor to ensure undisputed taxes were paid to both towns and disputed taxes were placed in escrow. She indicated the attorney would have another update at the October 7 meeting.

Public Comments. Emergency Management Director (EMD) Mark Tessier said a state official contacted him with a citizen's concern regarding loss of telephone service in the event of a power outage. It was agreed any concerns should be directed to Town Hall then shared with the EMD.

Mr. Tessier suggested the Town consider an ordinance establishing requirements for utilities – GMP, VTel and Comcast - installing poles and wires in the Town right-of-way.

Mr. Baker shared a complaint by Amy Gilbert regarding the second access through East Street to Van Wyck Road during the bridge repair. It was agreed the road crew would supply material and J. McClallen would grade it with his York rake.

Municipal Website Update. At the request of Recreation Committee members, estimates were obtained from Justin Jankus and Collaboration 133 to upgrade the municipal website to feature online registration with relative payments for recreation programs. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to accept Collaboration 133's estimate of \$500. Motion carried (5-0).

Former Delinquent Tax Collector's Bank Account Balance. This matter was tabled until the October 7 meeting.

Planning Commission Resignation. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to accept Justin Jankus' resignation from the Planning Commission with regrets. Motion carried (5-0).

Workplace Safety. There was a discussion regarding inviting VOSHA's Project Worksafe to inspect municipal facilities. By consensus, the Board agreed the first step would be to invite Fire Chief Michael Hughes to visit the facilities and make recommendations.

Emergency Action Plan. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to accept the municipal Emergency Action Plan. Motion carried (5-0).

Fire Warden. J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger recommending the state appoint Mark Barone as fire warden. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Comments. N. Tift requested VTTrans make road repairs to the Hull Avenue and Route 7 intersection.

Other Business. N. Tift said he authorized Vermont Digital to make repairs/updates to the zoning administrator computer.

The Board acknowledged receipt of BMA Associates preliminary designs for the Wallingford Block.

R. Regula questioned how the highway department decided which employee would get overtime when projects arise.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to enter executive session at 8:45 p.m. for a personnel matter as defined in 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(4). Motion carried (5-0). The Board exited executive session at 9:00 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 10/07/19