

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
October 7, 2019

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

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Phil Baker, Kate Wanner, Marc Pramuk, Lynn Edmunds, Nate Rand, Jeremy Krohn, Kathy Allen, Thomas Wicker, Sarah Wicker, Keith Whitcomb, Cecile Betit, Tony Masuck, Ann Erickson, and Lisa Geojian.

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

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, Computer Security Webinar and spill kits were added.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 10/07/19 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger approving the pay order total of \$15,508.49. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said work on Van Wyck Bridge should be completed by next week. He said winter sand has been stockpiled and roads graded.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said Fire Chief Michael Hughes would be at the town garage on Wednesday for a safety review of the facility. J. McClallen asked if the next step would be to invite VOSHA. Mr. Baker said he supported the idea.

There was a discussion regarding fences in the Right of Way for the Hartsboro Road ditching project. The town administrator provided the road commissioner with copies of the applicable state statute detailing a three-rod right of way to distribute to residents. Board members agreed the road crew could assist Ms. Green with removing the fence, but not re-installing it upon completion of the project.

Loader/Excavation Bid Review. Upon recommendation of the road commission, P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula accepting Milton CAT's bid for a 2019 Caterpillar 926M loader at \$126,000 (after a \$15,000 Kawasaki trade-in), which included a 7 year/3500 hour warranty.

Bids received:

~Beauregard Equipment 521G \$133,300 with \$10,000 trade-in reduces price to \$123,300 (5 year warranty would be additional \$1575);

~Nortrax John Deere 444K \$130,000 with \$5000 trade-in reduces price to \$125,000 (2500 hour warranty additional \$3150);
~Nortrax Used 2018 John Deere \$96,500;
~Nortrax 2019 John Deere \$38,000 with \$5000 trade-in reduces price to \$133,000 (5 year/2500 hour warranty \$3150).
~Milton Cat 918M \$124,900 with \$15,000 trade-in reduces price to \$109,900 includes 7 year/3500 hour warranty;
~Milton Cat 926M \$141,000 with \$15,000 trade-in reduces price to \$126,000 includes 7 year/3500 hour warranty.

Board members agreed to address financing at the next meeting utilizing 50 percent of the highway sinking fund.

Tax Sale. Delinquent Tax Collector Jill Stone Teer joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. via telephone conference call. She requested permission to go to tax sale with the assistance of Attorney Kevin O'Toole on 15 properties delinquent for more than two years.

After some discussion, N. Tift made a motion to approve going to tax sale on properties owned by Burton Burnett, Douglas Duval, Florence Fox, Clinton Greene, Douglas Humes, James Ingalls, Joseph Makar, Michael Morabito, Narragansett (2), Spencer Nimtz, Richard Skiba, Terry Travers, Fairfield Whiting and Bertram Morton. J. McClallen seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

Board members said they would decide at a later date whether the Town should bid on any properties at the tax sales.

Record Management Policy. Board members reviewed a draft policy for the creation, management and disposal of municipal records. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger adopting the Record Management Policy. Motion carried (5-0).

Quarterly Financials. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon presented the first quarter financials for FY'20. She reminded the Board the budget started with \$63,000 in the red. She said a \$13,000 Sugar Hill Road grant and an estimated \$25,000 in the state's share for the 2017 storm would offset a portion of that amount.

Green Mt. National Forest Acquisition of Fernfield Farm Property. Jeremy Krohn, Thomas Wicker, Kathy Allen, Tony Masuck, Kate Wanner, and Sarah Wicker all spoke in favor of the sale of 481 acres of Fernfield Farm property to Green Mountain National Forest. They urged board members to support the acquisition. Ms. Wanner said the property owners were interested in a gift of an unspecified amount of money to the Town for Recreation and/or Conservation efforts.

After a lengthy discussion, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to draft a letter in support of the sale. Motion carried (4-1). J. McClallen voted in the minority.

B. Duchesne noted he was not in favor of encumbrances associated with the gift.

Public Comments. Cecile Betit distributed a draft letter for the Public Utility Commission regarding backup power for telephone service in the event of power outages. She said legislators were recognizing the risk of the lack of telephone services in rural areas when the power goes out. She indicated citizens should expand their thinking to all possibilities to address this issue. She added Vermont cannot afford to continue its heavy reliance on electricity.

Zoning Workshop Request. S. Switzer said Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi withdrew his request to attend a Planning and Zoning Workshop in South Burlington. She added he requested on Erika Berner's behalf permission to attend a Municipal Day workshop in Rutland on October 31 at a cost of \$25. By consensus, the Board agreed.

By consensus, the Board approved a request for Town Hall employees to participate in a Computer Security Awareness webinar at a cost of \$25.

Former Delinquent Tax Collector's Bank Account Balance. S. Switzer said former Delinquent Tax Collector Lee Perry was seeking an explanation for a \$3608.20 bank balance and had it narrowed to a six-month period in 2017. He expected to have an answer for the Board at the October 23 meeting.

By consensus, the Board directed the town administrator to send Mr. Perry a letter requesting he turnover the funds to the town treasurer.

Taylor Property. P. Pranger made a motion that premature public knowledge of probable civil litigation related to the Stan Taylor town line boundary matter would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regard to negotiations. R. Regula seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to enter executive session at 7:51 p.m. with the Town Administrator for pending or probable civil litigation under 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E)(F). Motion carried.

The Board emerged from executive session at 8:00 p.m. N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula directing Attorney Charles Merriman to petition the court for a declaratory judgment on deed evidence related to the Stan Taylor property. Motion carried (5-0).

Workplace Safety. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne approving the Hazardous Communication Program following the annual review. Motion carried (5-0).

By consensus, the Board authorized purchase of spill kits from Grainger at a cost of \$142.40 for one large kit and \$39.58 for two smaller kits. Board members further approved the purchase of two LED emergency lights at \$60 each for the town garage and installation by an electrician at a cost not to exceed \$500.

VLCT PACIF RENEWAL. Board members reviewed the VLCT PACIF renewal forms. By consensus, they set the value of the Elfin Lake pavilion at \$20,000. There were no other amendments and board members authorized the town administrator to submit the documents to VLCT.

Selectboard Comments. J. McClallen noted excess water on Meadow Street after storms and N. Tift suggested another layer of asphalt be applied next spring.

Other Business. None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 10/21/19