

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
October 21, 2019

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

Others present: Julie Sharon, Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Lynn Edmunds, Lee Perry, Steve Lanfear and Levi Balestra, Jr.

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

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, delinquent tax collector workshop request and line dancing classes at Town Hall were added.

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

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by J. McClallen to approve the pay order total of \$56,090.51. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked if all FEMA related work on Van Wyck Bridge and Nash Drive had been completed so the state could schedule an inspection. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear confirmed everything was done.

Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew would be grading the Town of Clarendon's roads for one more day in response to a request for assistance due to equipment issues. N. Tift offered to contact Clarendon Selectboard Chair Michael Klopchin if necessary to indicate the road foreman and grader were no longer available due to local projects.

Mr. Baker said he wanted the road crew to tackle Seward Hill next. The town administrator asked about the Hartsboro Road ditching and culvert project. She said Sarah Green was asking for a status update. Mr. Lanfear did not have a firm start date.

Loader Financing. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon provided an overview of three financing options for the Southworth-Milton CAT loader purchase— Community Bank, Southworth-Milton, and State of Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan. The loader purchase price of \$126,000 after the trade-in less a down payment of \$44,000 (from the equipment fund) would result in a loan amount of \$82,000.

After some discussion, the Board by consensus approved the state loan financing option at 2 percent interest.

Highway Debris on Wheeler Property. N. Tift asked Mr. Baker to contact Tom Wheeler to schedule a meeting to address his concerns that included road material on his property

near Tift Road, pull-offs extending beyond the Right of Way, and a survey stake buried beneath road debris. Mr. Baker agreed to contact Mr. Wheeler.

Town Garage. N. Tift directed the road foreman to begin addressing a list of health/safety recommendations made by Fire Chief Michael Hughes after a recent visit to the town garage. The town administrator said she would soon be receiving a report with cost projections from Rob Stubbins regarding electrical system recommendations at the town garage. She said she would obtain multiple estimates once she received the report. She noted during his inspection, Mr. Stubbins replaced two emergency lights that were not working.

Snow Removal at Wallingford Elementary School. By consensus, the Board agreed to a request from Mill River Unified Union School District's Gary Marcy for the road crew to provide snow removal services at Wallingford Elementary School this winter.

Public Comments. Levi Balestra, Jr. requested the road crew clear a clogged culvert near the intersection of Maple and Railroad Streets. He also requested the Town contact VTel to request old utility poles be removed. He estimated it had been 10 years since new poles were installed and he expressed concern the old ones had not been taken down.

J. McClallen made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula directing the town administrator to send VTel a letter requesting old utility poles be removed and then follow-up with a telephone call to the Public Service Board. Motion carried (5-0).

Town Hall Key. There was a discussion regarding a request by Recreation Committee Chair Michelle Kenny to provide Recreation Director Jamie Consolatti a key to Town Hall. Board members indicated their preference not to provide a key since Ms. Consolatti does not hold office hours in the building.

P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to deny the request. Motion carried (5-0).

Former Delinquent Tax Collector's Bank Account Balance. Former Delinquent Tax Collector Lee Perry said his review of bank statements had identified where a majority of the funds remaining in a TD Bank account should be directed. He said all but \$300 of the \$3608.20 balance had been accounted for with some of the money to go to the Town and some to be returned to overcharged taxpayers. N. Tift said he wanted the funds transferred to the Town and dispersed by the treasurer. Mr. Perry agreed.

Selectboard Comments. R. Regula said property owners were using transfer station punch cards to dispose of household furniture, tires and even construction debris. She said transfer station attendants in other communities only allowed punch cards to be used for solid waste. After some discussion, the Board agreed to revisit the matter and review the fee schedule at budget time.

Other Business. N. Tift noted receipt of Attorney Charles Merriman's invoice.

N. Tift requested the town administrator to attend the Wednesday, October 30 FEMA meeting at the Rutland Free Library.

Mr. Lanfear said he would not be attending the federally mandated Reasonable Suspicion training in Peru the following day as he would be grading roads in Clarendon. The town administrator noted the Town would be charged a \$25 no show fee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.
Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

Date Approved: 11/04/19