

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
November 1, 2021

Selectboard Members Present: Bruce Duchesne, Kathy Luzader, Rose Regula, and Nelson Tift. Patricia Pranger was absent.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Carol Macleod and Greg McCormack.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. Added Recreation Committee resignation by consensus.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 10/18/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 10/27/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 11/02/21 pay order total of \$1,640,149.23. Motion carried (4-0).

N. Tift noted the pay orders included \$1,527,534.05 to be sent to the Mill River Unified Union School District.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Foreman Phil Baker said he assisted the road crew with minor paving projects on Hull Avenue, River Street and the Creek Road Bridge, which included recessing the bridge plate. He said Wilk Paving billed the Town for the roughly \$300 in materials rather than himself. He said instead of sending the Town an invoice for his labor and equipment use (nearly the same total as the materials), the Town could pay the material invoice and he would not send a bill for his work and call it even. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Mr. Baker described a plan to extend the roof line of the existing sand shed with added trusses and concrete blocks for salt storage leaving it open on one side. The Board reviewed a lengthy email from Regional Floodplain Manager Kyle Medash regarding permit and other requirements to replace the existing salt shed. The discussion included another option to rent space at the old Pike property on Creek Road. N. Tift noted there would be a substantial review of the Act 250 permit before that possibility was explored further. B. Duchesne said he thought salt and sand sheds should be located on the same property for the efficiency of operations. N. Tift instructed the road commissioner to provide a rough plan to the town administrator this week so eligibility for the Transportation Alternative Program could be determined.

N. Tift noted the Town had chosen Cargill for bulk road salt this winter.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked about installing barriers at the ballfield where a fence was vandalized. Mr. Baker agreed to look into it. He estimated a cost of \$80 per 2'X2'X6' barrier.

There was a discussion about the Buffalo Turbine Blower estimate of \$8,150 for use as a debris/leaf blower with a Grants in Aid grant covering \$5,160 of the cost and the Town responsible for the balance. B. Duchesne expressed concern about the road crew blowing leaves/debris onto private property. By consensus, the Board conditionally approved the purchase as long as the road commissioner and road foreman were in agreement.

N. Tift noted the road crew had extended the culvert on Maranville Road as part of the Grants in Aid project.

Public Comments. Carol Macleod said she was working on the ERSA grant application seeking \$30,000 on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Town for trail work at Stone Meadow. She said she needed an insurance certificate for the application packet. The town administrator agreed to obtain one from VLCT. Ms. Macleod indicated Shannon Pytlik was assisting with the grant application. She indicated the Conservation Commission had received quotes from F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping and Meticulous Mowing for trail work as part of the grant. There was a discussion regarding whether the Purchasing Policy should apply for grants. N. Tift indicated if the work was being done outside of the grant, then it would fall under the policy. He noted the specialized work required as part of the trail upgrades would make a sealed bid process challenging. By consensus, the Board agreed to waive the sealed bid process in pursuit of the grant as multiple estimates were obtained.

K. Luzader congratulated Ms. Macleod for making it through to the next round of the grant application process. Ms. Macleod thanked the town administrator and Ms. Pytlik for their assistance.

Annual Town Reports. The Board reviewed estimates good for 30 days from Rutland Printing and Reprographics for printing the annual Town report. The town administrator said she had negotiated prepaying either contractor the paper costs in order to avoid anticipated rate increases and paper shortages in January.

The Board agreed by consensus to hire Rutland Printing to print full versions of the annual Town Report. Rutland Printing's estimate was \$1,832 for a 60 page document with 850 copies or \$1,565 for a 48 page document with 850 copies with no hourly set up fees. The Town administrator said her goal was to limit it to 48 pages.

Employee Health Insurance. Board members reviewed BCBS-VT rates for 2022 that dropped 6 percent. N. Tift noted with employees moving to single plans and only one employee with a dependent, the overall cost to remain with the BCBS platinum plan would be reduced by \$2,166/month starting January 1.

B. Duchesne said if the Town could maintain the same health insurance standards for employees at these reduced costs, he would be in favor of it. By consensus, the Board agreed to make no changes.

Opioid Settlement. N. Tift said he had read through the state Attorney General's documents regarding a federal settlement reached with three of the largest pharmaceutical distributors of opioids - McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen. He said no amount of money would recover the losses from opioids. However, he said if the Town signed on as a participant, it may help with the distribution of settlement funds to the state.

K. Luzader agreed and said the Town should sign on as a participant to help the state. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Appointments. By consensus, the Board appointed Erika Berner and Ken Fredette as representative and alternate respectively to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Council.

The Board by consensus accepted Diane Baker's resignation from the Recreation Committee. N. Tift said he along with the town administrator had extended their appreciation to Ms. Baker for her years of service on that committee upon receiving notice of her resignation. The town administrator prepared a letter to Ms. Baker for Board member signatures.

Selectboard Concerns. By consensus, the Board approved R. Regula representing the Town at upcoming tax sales. It was further agreed by consensus, the Town would not bid on the properties.

K. Luzader asked about the decision to prohibit PEG TV microphones on individual board member tables during meetings. N. Tift said some board members objected to it and he would oppose it as long as there were objections.

R. Regula raised the issue of the upcoming November 10 site visit to Elfin Lake public beach with a state Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) official. She said the Selectboard discussed beach erosion concerns during several meetings over the summer with the road commissioner, road foreman and Highway Department and agreed upon a course of action. She said Shannon Pytlik worked for DEC and used her influence to arrange a meeting with the state official, Amy Picotte. She added Ms. Pytlik was attempting to circumvent the local legislative body's authority in regards to this matter. R. Regula indicated she planned to attend the site visit, but she added she was unhappy with the way it came about. B. Duchesne commented he too was concerned Ms. Pytlik had used her position with the state to go over the Selectboard's head. He added he hoped the site visit went well and the state official would offer some good suggestions. K. Luzader said the road crew brought in sand at the start of the summer and it had washed away. She said the answer was not more sand and she said she hoped they could work with the road commissioner to find a solution. B. Duchesne responded the Board had

agreed upon a plan with the Highway Department, but he said Ms. Pytlik had involved the state.

Other Business. N. Tift said Advantage Tennis had provided an estimate of \$6,100 to resurface the tennis court for budget purposes.

N. Tift said the Town received \$2,310.26 in Highway Supplemental Income. He said he would like to earmark those funds for future sidewalk projects or as a grant match.

The Board agreed to participate in a site visit at West Hill Cemetery as requested by surveyor Debra Daniels Mithoefer of Manchester, VT., who is working on behalf of the Stan Taylor family on a lot line adjustment matter.

N. Tift expressed dismay with the ordinance fines collected in September as a result of tickets issued by the Rutland County Sheriff's Dept. He said the volume of traffic exceeding the speed limits on Route 7 should result in more tickets. He said he would speak to Sheriff David Fox on increasing stationary radar. K. Luzader said she walked on School Street every day and witnessed multiple speed violations on every walk. R. Regula asked about tickets being issued for parking violations at Cumberland Farms. She said the Maple Street and Route 7 intersection was a challenge for motorists with vehicles illegally parked in front of the store.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator Date Approved: 11/01/21