

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
December 6, 2021

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Steve Baker, Amy Gilbert, David Fox, Dave Ballou, Greg McCormack and Melissa Whitmore via speakerphone.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 11/15/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0). By consensus, the Board tabled approval of the 11/17/21 Minutes.

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 12/07/21 pay order total of \$44,094.71. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. N. Tift explained Town Administrator Sandi Switzer would like to add Honorable Mentions to meeting agendas to start each meeting with notable good news. Honorable mentions for 12/06/21: Annika Heintz named as an all-star to the Southern Vermont League cross country team and named Rutland Herald's Cross Country Runner of the year; Charlie Woods, Bruce Duchesne and John McClallen installed and adjusted municipal basketball hoop backboards to correct heights; and Len and Mary Anne Cadwallader donated balsam firs to the statehouse in Montpelier and Dartmouth College.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear said the road crew was busy hauling sand, installing chains on the grader, and performing equipment maintenance. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he would be working with Mr. Lanfear on a salt shed proposal.

N. Tift said there had been questions related to use of the Van Wyck Bridge as part of a logging operation on Amy Gilbert's property. He explained VTrans officials were provided details regarding bridge upgrades in 2019 and responded by noting state statute declared a 16,000 weight limit on the wood deck bridge. He said someone with expertise on load rating would need to determine the maximum load limit as far as the logging operation. He said the Town was not required to provide basic access beyond fire, highway department or fuel truck. He said the town administrator sent inquiries to VTrans referrals regarding the cost to conduct a load rating survey and was awaiting responses.

Steve Baker said he had already begun logging operations based on permissions granted in January and this would put him and Ms. Gilbert in a difficult situation. Ms. Gilbert said the logging operation was in compliance with current use and there was a time limit for completion. N. Tift responded the Town could not issue an overweight vehicle permit without a basis for the weight.

There was a discussion regarding who would pay for the load rating survey. Ms. Gilbert asked if the Town would consider a 50/50 split. N. Tift replied he did not believe the Town was responsible for the expense associated with a commercial enterprise. B. Duchesne noted the load rating survey would only be conducted as a result of the logging operation, and, therefore should not be a municipal expense.

P. Pranger asked if there was an alternate route. K. Luzader said she also wondered if that was an option. S. Baker said there might be an alternate route if a nearby landowner granted access, but he said it would require considerable excavation and gravel. He did not think it was feasible.

N. Tift said the Town does not take on the responsibility for commercial operations.

P. Baker requested permission to purchase an attachment from Caterpillar at a cost not to exceed \$1,100. He said the attachment would be installed on the front end of the loader for the V-plow, the all angle plow, street brooms and forks. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Public Comments. None.

Revenue Augmentation Trust. Trustee of Public Funds Melissa Whitmore said terms of the Revenue Augmentation Trust (Fernfield Farms) called for voters at the 2022 Town Meeting to determine what to do with funds valued at \$240,162 as of 09/30/21 when the trust terminates in December of 2023. She said trustees had no more authority over how funds should be spent than any other resident.

N. Tift said Trustee of Public Funds Joyce Barbieri sent an email recommending 2/3 of the principal go into a fund to rebuild the salt shed with the balance to remain in the Trust.

Trustees of Public Funds Dave Ballou said the money was donated to the Town to offset losses of taxes when Fernfield Farms was sold. He said if the funds were spent, they would be gone forever. He advised continuing as is with annual interest and dividends used to lower taxes.

N. Tift noted \$131,709 or about \$6,000 per year from the Trust was used to lower taxes over a 22-year period.

P. Pranger said she would like to utilize funds for a large project and maintain the Trust to continue lowering taxes. B. Duchesne expressed support for using the funds for a salt shed, infrastructure project or equipment purchase rather than raising taxes for those expenses. K. Luzader said she agreed with Ms. Barbieri's recommendation.

There was a brief discussion about the Ralph E. Stafford Memorial Fund for annual scholarships. Ms. Whitmore said Dave Ballou deserves the credit for his research on the Stafford investment.

After further discussion, P. Pranger and K. Luzader agreed to work with the town administrator on the wording of a ballot item that would utilize 2/3 of the trust for a large project with the balance to remain in the Trust.

FY'23 Draft Public Safety Budget. By consensus, the Board set the following line items: 5402 First Constable \$250; 5406 Special Officers \$46,000; 5408 Dog Warden Stipend \$1,250; and 5410 Dog Warden Expenses \$50.

N. Tift noted the special officers line item would be used for Rutland County Sheriff Dept. patrols of 20 hours per week.

R. Regula asked Sheriff David Fox to enforce the No Parking Zone in front of Cumberland Farms for safety reasons related to motorists accessing Route 7 from Maple Street.

FY'23 Recreation Budget. By consensus, the Board set the following line items: 5801 Elfin Lake Salaries \$9,500; 5901 Summer Recreation Salaries \$8,200; 5803 Telephone \$250; 5804 Electricity \$450; 5805 Maintenance \$2,500; 5806 Portable Restroom \$750 (for one); 5807 Field Trips \$1,500; 5808 Lake Supplies \$525; 5809 Recreation Supplies \$650; 5810 Lake Concessions \$1,000; 5812 Mowing \$2,600; 5814 Youth Sports \$500; 5815 Great Elfin Lake 5K \$0; 5817 Recreation Program \$500.

Wallingford Day (line 5818) will be set at a later date. P. Pranger noted the entire Recreation budget was devoid of any programs for adults. There was a discussion regarding Recreation Committee equipment estimates provided to the Board. N. Tift said he directed Recreation Chair Trisha Nash to submit purchase recommendations. B. Duchesne said weed killer was on the list of purchases and cautioned it should not be used at the ballfield without first consulting Fire District #1. By consensus, it was agreed the \$6,100 estimate for tennis court resurfacing should come from the Recreation CD. P. Pranger asked about the \$1,000 donated to Recreation by Wallingford Thrift. J. Sharon responded it would need to be spent by June 30.

There was a discussion regarding the Recreation Committee's request to budget \$10,000 for a recreation director. K. Luzader expressed support for the line item. N. Tift said he might support it in a future budget, but not the FY'23 spending plan. By consensus, the Board agreed not to include funds for a recreation director.

R. Regula noted the concession stand needed new gutters, a new ceiling and upgrades to the restrooms. She said a member of the Recreation Committee should have attended the budget meeting. K. Luzader agreed.

Non-Profit Funding Requests. By consensus the Board approved adding the following funds to the FY'23 Appropriations budget: VNA & Hospice \$250; So. Western VT Council on Aging \$250; Rutland County Humane Soc. \$300; Rutland Mental Health Services

\$250; RSVP \$250; NewStory \$250; VT Association for the Blind \$90; Green UP Vermont \$100; Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District \$250; Wallingford Flags \$150; Irving Smith Scholarship \$1,000; Preservation Trust \$100; VT Center for Independent Living \$100; ARC \$100; VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force \$100; VT Family Network \$100; Child First Advocacy \$100; and VT Council on Rural Development \$100.

It was noted American Red Cross, BROCC and Regional Ambulance Service did not submit funding requests. The Communication Group Expense (line 5160) would be set later.

Mail Election Ballots. By consensus, the Board agreed not to mail Town Meeting ballots to every registered voter at an unbudgeted cost of about \$2,000.

Recreation Committee Vacancy. N. Tift said the Recreation Committee had recommended Shannon Pytlik be appointed to a vacant seat. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to appoint Ms. Pytlik. Motion was defeated (2-3) with K. Luzader and N. Tift voting in the minority.

N. Tift requested the Recreation Committee find another candidate.

Annual Informational Meeting. There was a brief discussion about Owl Meeting Technology with Zoom for the annual Informational Meeting.

By consensus, the Board directed the town administrator to find out whether the Wallingford Elementary School was available for an in-person meeting. If not, the Board would hold the informational meeting at Town Hall utilizing Zoom technology with a limit on in-person attendance.

ARPA Committee. N. Tift said he would like to see the Town form a committee to explore eligible uses for ARPA funds totaling \$583,202. K. Luzader said she thought a committee was a good idea. B. Duchesne said his preference was for a committee of five members who would explore 3 or 4 large projects and make recommendations to the Selectboard. P. Pranger agreed with appointing five residents to the committee and focusing on a few large projects.

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to form a 5-person ARPA Committee to investigate eligible ARPA projects. Motion carried (5-0).

Committee Meetings. By consensus, the Board agreed municipal committee and commission meetings should continue to be held on the second floor of Town Hall in order to practice safe distancing.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. The Board agreed to purchase \$25 holiday gift cards for municipal employees.

Board members declined a request to send legislators emails or letters on H.115 related to manufacturer responsibilities related to household hazardous waste collection costs.

By consensus, the Board agreed the balance of the insurance claim related to the ballfield fence vandalism should go into the general account.

N. Tift noted the Enhanced Energy Plan to be included in updated Zoning Regulations would require a public hearing making it unlikely an article on the regulations would be added to the Town Meeting ballot due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 20th of December, 2021

WALLINGFORD SELECTBOARD

Bruce Duchesne _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Patricia Pranger _____

Rose Regula (Vice Chair) _____

Nelson Tift (Chair) _____