

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
December 20, 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 via speakerphone, Greg McCormack. Tabitha Davis, Michael Luzader, Bruce Dobbins, Eric Davenport and Mark Tessier.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the 11/17/21 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained as she was not at the meeting. R. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approved the 12/06/21 Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to approve the 12/21/21 pay order total of \$55,278.69. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. N. Tift noted Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon and Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone Green purchased local goods for the Wallingford House with donated funds and they planned to make it a monthly practice. N. Tift noted Ralph Nimtze provided an impressive list of birds he recently observed at Stone Meadow, including 50 juncos.

Building Committee Report. None.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he along with Road Foreman Steve Lanfear inspected the Carrara Camp Road Bridge and the deck was rotted but beams, walls and footings were in good shape. He estimated \$2,500 for pressure treated lumber and \$1,000 for hemlock. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer noted the FY'22 budget included \$2,000 for Special Projects with a portion of those funds to be used for bridge planks. After some discussion, the Board by consensus approved the estimate for pressure treated lumber. Mr. Baker offered to provide his labor at no charge.

There was a brief discussion about purchasing two-way radios. By consensus, it was agreed to not make that purchase as there are too many dead spots.

Mr. Baker agreed to fill out a VTrans form related to the Van Wyck Bridge and forward it to Pam Thurber who will consider conducting a load rating on the structure. He recommended installing a metal plate as an interim measure similar to the plate installed

on the Creek Road Bridge in order for an ongoing logging operation to continue and utilize the Van Wyck Bridge. B. Duchesne said Mr. Baker was not an engineer and he preferred the load rating be conducted first and any installations be made in consultation with an engineer. B. Duchesne raised the issue on an alternate route for the Amy Gilbert logging operation. Steve Baker said that would require landowner permission from a neighbor as well as excavation and gravel installation. S. Baker said he preferred the metal plate proposal and load rating the bridge. Amy Gilbert said the load rating would be scheduled once the Town files the bridge form with VTrans. Mark Tessier said loggers would be required to fill out overweight vehicle permits with liability insurance certificates and would be held responsible for any damage to the bridge. After further discussion. R. Regula made a motion to allow the road commissioner to install the metal plate at no cost to the Town. K. Luzader seconded the motion. N. Tift clarified it was a 1-inch decking plate, 20-foot long with a bridge weight limit maximum of 50,000 pounds. The town administrator noted overweight permits and insurance certificates were required in accordance with state statute. Motion carried (4-1). B. Duchesne voted in the minority.

Wallingford Rescue Funding Request. Eric Davenport said Wallingford Rescue was seeking \$21,000, which is the same amount requested last year. He explained \$11,000 was for the operating budget and \$10,000 would go into a Vehicle Replacement Fund. By consensus the Board agreed.

Mr. Davenport complimented the Town for the brush removal on East Street.

Carving Studio Bench Request. Carving Studio Executive Director Carol Driscoll, who did not attend the meeting, requested Town participation in a bench project. The Town would determine the location, prepare the site, and install it. The studio would conduct a two week workshop with area youth to create the bench.

The Board by consensus approved the request and agreed to donate \$500.

Recreation. Michael Luzader and Tabitha Davis presented a list of recommended equipment purchases to be paid by the \$14,000 Recreation CD. N. Tift noted \$6,100 from the CD was earmarked for tennis court resurfacing.

Mr. Luzader raised the issue of budgeting \$13,000 for a Recreation Director at \$25 an hour for 10 hours a week. He said this person would organize youth sports, coordinate volunteers for work days, write grant applications, and more. He noted the Town Plan called for a fulltime Recreation Director. P. Pranger said in the past it was difficult to find a person willing to work in that post for a salary the Town could afford to pay.

K. Luzader said the Town could use a Rec Director since there were only three people serving on a five member Rec Committee. R. Regula said there were other pressing Recreation issues, such as upgrades to the Concession stand at Elfin Lake. She also questioned the need to purchase a 10'X10' dock to replace the 8'X10' dock. She said she preferred the smaller size. M. Tessier suggested moving erosion costs from the equipment list to the FY'23 budget rather than taking it from the CD. The town administrator noted

the state's Amy Picotte had met with R. Regula and B. Duchesne at the public beach and agreed to provide recommendations to address erosion and to provide a list of grant resources to pursue those recommendations. However, she noted Ms. Picotte has since retired and did not forward the recommendations. The town administrator said hopefully her successor will continue that work. After further discussion, the Board approved the purchase of kayaks, the basketball backboard, ropes and buoys, a volleyball net, edging for the basketball court, and a new dock out of remaining CD funds after \$6,100 was set aside for the tennis court resurfacing.

Ms. Davis said the volunteer Rec Committee did not have the time to organize programs. She urged the Board to budget for a Recreation Director. Mr. Luzader volunteered to be on a hiring committee. M. Tessier raised the notion of merging Conservation and Recreation Committees. N. Tift said he would support the position next year, but not this year as he was not sure any programs would operate due to the pandemic. There was no consensus to budget for the position.

M. Luzader asked the Board to appoint Shannon Pytlik to a vacant seat. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by N. Tift to make that appointment. Motion denied (2-3). K. Luzader and N. Tift voted in the minority. M. Luzader questioned why three board members would not support the appointment. B. Duchesne explained Conservation Commission members brought concerns to the Selectboard a few years ago related to unauthorized tree cuttings and work on bike jumps at Stone Meadow. He said it was determined the Pytlik children were among those involved. He said Ms. Pytlik had been on a media campaign against Town Government ever since. B. Duchesne said he had mixed feelings about the appointment as Ms. Pytlik was knowledgeable, but he said he did not intend to reward bad behavior. M. Luzader advised the Board to assume the best and that she would work to her full potential. N. Tift said it was time to move onto another topic.

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to accept Trisha Nash's resignation from the Recreation Committee. Motion carried (5-0). K. Luzader asked that a note of appreciation be sent to Ms. Nash.

Van Wyck Bridge. Steve Baker returned to the meeting and asked whether a new weight limit of 50,000 pounds on the Van Wyck Bridge after the metal plate was installed would be sufficient to haul half loads from a logging operation. N. Tift cautioned vehicles should not go above that weight limit. Ms. Gilbert asked what would be required if the state increased the bridge load limit to 24,000 pounds. N. Tift responded loggers would operate under state statutes for 24,000 pounds just like any other commercial vehicle.

Ms. Gilbert asked what would happen if the state did not increase the load rating. She requested the Town afford her the same access to her property as any other resident. N. Tift said the Town intended to abide by state statutes.

Public Comments. None.

FY'23 Highway Budget. Mr. Baker said he anticipated 30 percent increases in most Highway budget items in the next fiscal year. By consensus, the Board approved Mr. Baker's recommendations for the following line items: 5301 Town Garage Operating Expenses \$11,850; 5302 Misc Equipment \$2,600; 5307 Grader \$3,900; 5308 Backhoe \$2,000; 5310 Sanders \$2,000; 5314 Hired Equipment \$12,000 -which includes 80 hours of roadside mowing at \$100/hour and Mt. Holly snowplowing and grading. The Board approved his budget requests for: 5315 Diesel \$27,500; 5316 Gas \$1,200; 5317 Trees \$3,250; 5318 Sand \$38,100; 5319 Salt \$60,000; 5320 Chloride \$975; 5321 Culverts \$9,750; 5322 Oil and Grease \$3,250; 5323 Gravel \$107,500; 5324 Blades \$3,250; 5325 Paving \$65,000; 5327 Traffic Devices 650; 5328 Road Crew Clothing Stipend \$1,500; 5332 Special Projects for cleaning storm drains \$2,000; 5336 2016 Kenworth \$6,500; 5337 2014 Kenworth \$5,500; 5338 Chevrolet \$1,000; 5339 MRGP \$2090 (the town administrator verified the fees with the state); 5340 Dodge Ram \$1,500; 5342 Loader \$21,320 (payment); and 5343 Excavator \$12,455 (payment).

The Board agreed not to budget for a trailer to haul the excavator. The town administrator cautioned the excavator should not be left on a roadside unattended overnight.

Mr. Baker said Milton CAT quoted around \$300,000 for a new grader. B. Duchesne asked him to get multiple prices.

Mr. Baker estimated \$75,000 to extend the sand shed to include winter salt storage and vehicle storage. The cost includes trusses, metal roofing, concrete, poles and labor. The town administrator asked if an engineer or architect should draw up a plan for grant applications and eventually Request for Proposals. No decision was made.

FY'23 Appropriations Budget. By consensus, the Board added the following to the Appropriation budget: \$38,000 for Gilbert Hart Library; \$2,500 for Mt. Holly Rescue; \$250 for VT Adult Learning; and \$100 for Rutland County Parent Child Center.

ARPA Committee. By consensus, the Board agreed to a seven member ARPA Committee as follows: Robert Allen, Ann Awad, Jim Bagnall, Bruce Dobbins, Richard Korchak, Elicia Pinsonault and Peg Soule.

N. Tift advised the Committee create an application process for ARPA fund requests.

Mowing Bids. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to accept F.A.S. Trucking and Landscaping's mowing bid for 2022. Motion carried (5-0).

Liquor License. P. Pranger made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve Mamma Tamara's first class liquor license request. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. The town administrator said Durable Home Products quoted \$800 to install new gutters on the concession stand at Elfin Lake. N. Tift said the work could be paid from the Recreation CD.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by P. Pranger to sign Vermont Elevator Service's agreement for a 15 percent discount on annual inspection services over a five-year period with no money up front. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift noted the Town will be using Wallingford Elementary School for the informational meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022.

P. Pranger congratulated the town administrator on the letter of support she wrote on behalf of the Town for Michelle Kenny's Wallingford Block grant application.

N. Tift noted Ms. Kenny was open to speaking to Joyce Barbieri about use of a structure located behind Wallingford Block.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 3rd Day of January, 2022

WALLINGFORD SELECTBOARD

Bruce Duchesne _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Patricia Pranger _____

Rose Regula (Vice Chair) _____

Nelson Tift (Chair) _____