

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
March 7, 2022

Selectboard Members Present: Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, Justin Jankus, Kathy Luzader, and Nelson Tift.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Patty Bowen, Gary Fredette, Michelle Kinney, Bruce Dobbins, Lisa Cotrupi, and Greg McCormack.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer called the Reorganizational Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

S. Switzer asked for nominations for Selectboard Chair. B. Duchesne nominated N. Tift and J. Jankus seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. N. Tift was elected chair (5-0).

N. Tift called for nominations for Vice Chair. N. Tift nominated B. Duchesne and K. Luzader seconded the nomination. J. Jankus nominated K. Luzader and C. Behrendt seconded the nomination. K. Luzader was elected vice chair (3-2).

By consensus, the Rutland Herald was designated the newspaper of record; date and times of twice monthly Selectboard meetings will be the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall; and Rules of Procedure for Municipal Bodies were adopted.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve the 02/22/22 Meeting Minutes. B. Duchesne had one minor amendment. Motion carried (3-0). C. Behrendt and J. Jankus abstained as they were not members of the Selectboard at that meeting.

By consensus, the Board approved the 02/28/22 Meeting Minutes. C. Behrendt and J. Jankus abstained.

Pay Orders. By consensus, the Board approved the 03/08/22 pay order total of \$16,650.09.

Honorable Mentions. N. Tift said Walter Teer donated a long rope to assist with the Elfin Lake ice out fundraiser to benefit Wallingford Day; Wendy Savery and Michael Luzader maintained the Book Path at Stone Meadow; volunteers raised \$493 through raffle tickets sales on Town Meeting Day with proceeds to benefit Wallingford Day; and Bill and Stephanie Brooks donated funds in support of the monthly newsletter.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said he had no update on the injector pump ordered for the 2014 Kenworth. He said sand and salt supplies were stable. He said he had heard no issues with the roads. The town administrator noted Trudy Dias called regarding storm water running down Nash Drive onto her property and washing out a portion of the lawn and driveway. She requested the berm be repaired. The road crew has been notified.

N. Tift asked about the grader estimate from Milton CAT and two estimates from John Deere. Mr. Baker said the two John Deere models had different drive trains. He said Case had sent him a bid as well. Mr. Baker said Case was the highest at \$318,000, but that amount would be reduced by \$25,000 with the Galion trade-in; John Deere models were \$282,000 and \$288,000 after trade-in. K. Luzader said the higher of the two John Deere's was \$297,000. Mr. Baker said Milton CAT was \$260,000 after the trade-in. He said the CAT was an equivalent machine. He noted the last two municipal equipment purchases were from CAT and the Town had no issues with either purchase. Mr. Baker said all three brands offered top of the line machines. He cautioned there may be a considerable delay between date of order and date of delivery. J. Jankus asked if the price would be locked in and Mr. Baker confirmed it. Mr. Baker responded to C. Behrendt's question about service and maintenance availability by indicating all three dealers offered service within the state.

J. Jankus said he researched the engines to determine if they qualified for the Diesel Emissions Reduction program. He noted the John Deere models met the requirements and asked whether the CAT qualified for the program. Mr. Baker confirmed all of the models under consideration met the requirements.

N. Tift asked about financing the purchase. The town administrator said Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon would provide the Board with loan options from the state Equipment Loan Program as well as the bank at the March 21 meeting. N. Tift said the Town may apply for the Diesel Emission Program. Mr. Baker cautioned if the Board removed the Galion trade-in value, the dealers may increase the purchase price as they no longer get revenue from the resale of the used grader. By consensus, the item was tabled until March 21.

In a separate matter, S. Switzer said she received a request to consider adding Taft Terrace to this summer's paving list.

Mr. Baker suggested the Town consider asking voters to set aside an amount each year for future equipment purchases. He said the Town of Clarendon asked voters annually at Town Meeting to add \$100,000 to an equipment fund rather than financing equipment purchases. K. Luzader compared it to a Sinking Fund. Mr. Baker agreed and said Wallingford could do the same. N. Tift said Boards considered adding large sums to an equipment fund in the past, but ultimately excluded it in order to keep tax rates down. B. Duchesne said the Board could add a separate article on the Town Meeting Warning rather than include it as a budget line item. Mr. Baker agreed voters should decide on a Sinking Fund or whether to finance each purchase.

J. Jankus asked what other municipal equipment should be replaced soon. Mr. Baker replied one dump truck needed to be replaced now and another dump truck should be replaced in two years. He said vehicles should be on a seven year rotation. He noted the backhoe was 10 years old and the grader was 22 years old.

Annual Financial Plan. The Board approved by consensus the Annual Financial Plan required by VTrans in order to qualify for paving and bridge/structure grants.

Public Comments. Gary Fredette asked if the Board would allow Peg TV to add microphones to individual Selectboard tables to improve audio on recordings. N. Tift asked if the general consensus of the Board was to allow microphones. All were in favor except B. Duchesne, who indicated he held a minority opinion on this issue. N. Tift informed Peg TV's Greg McCormack microphones could be placed on board members' tables at future meetings.

ARPA Mission Statement. ARPA Committee member Bruce Dobbins read aloud a draft Mission Statement: *Using the U.S. Treasury guidance, the ARPA Committee will conduct a needs assessment that considers priorities of the three communities that make up our Town and develop recommendations to the Select Board for the allocation of the ARPA funds.*

B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the Mission Statement. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift asked whether the committee planned to develop an application process for ARPA funds. Mr. Dobbins said the committee would be meeting next week to develop a set of recommendations based on the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule. The information would be relayed to citizens with a comment period for input and responses regarding projects and initiatives citizens would like to submit for consideration. He said the committee would then review requests in accordance with Treasury's rules and the committee's criteria.

The town administrator said the ARPA committee could submit an item for the newsletter by the March 23 deadline seeking citizen input. Mr. Dobbins said committee members hoped to submit a series of final recommendations to the Selectboard by this fall in order to begin allocating funds. It was noted ARPA Committee updates were posted on the municipal website.

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. N. Tift explained the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement was an agreement between 23 of the 27 Rutland County towns to provide resources to one another in the event of an emergency. By consensus, the Board adopted the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.

Appointments/Reappointments. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to reappoint Jane Quigley to 4 years on the Conservation Commission; Robert Cook to 1 year as Constable; Jason Stone and Lucy Thayer for 3 years each on the Development Review Board; Joseph Elwell 1 year as Dog Warden; Eric and Dale Davenport 1 year each as E911 Coordinators; Robbie Stubbins, Doug Blodgett and Jay

White 3 years each on the Energy Committee; Michael McMahon 1 year on the Fire Protection Committee; Nelson Tift 3 years on the Fire Protection Committee; William Weiss 1 year as Rutland County Solid Waste District representative; Stacey Wicker 1 year as RCSWD alternate; Phil Baker 1 year as Road Commissioner; Rob Barker 1 year as tree warden. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift noted Sumio Seo, Daniel Alcorn, Shannon Pytlik and Morgan Over submitted their names to be appointed to the Recreation Committee. K. Luzader said she was working with B. Duchesne on a draft Mission Statement for the Recreation Committee and they hoped to present it to the full Board on March 21. She said the Board would then revisit committee appointment decisions.

K. Luzader volunteered to serve on the Scholarship Committee and sign payroll warrants. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Face Mask Requirements for Town Hall. N. Tift said the town clerk and treasurer, the assistant town clerk and treasurer and the town administrator would support lifting the face mask requirement for Town Hall. K. Luzader said the state was making face masks voluntary indoors as of March 14. J. Jankus noted other towns recommended unvaccinated individuals wear face masks. By consensus, the Board rescinded the face mask mandate for Town Hall and recommended face masks for those not fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

By consensus, the Board agreed to terminate the Zoom account.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. N. Tift noted the Selectboard packet included an update on the status of municipal grant applications.

N. Tift said the Town was accepting applications for Elfin Lake lifeguards and concession stand workers.

N. Tift said board members were provided copies of the draft Wallingford Elementary School Stormwater design prepared by Watershed Consultants. He said a catch basin incorporated into the design would require maintenance and there had been an issue as to the responsible entity. B. Duchesne asked what, if any, effect the project would have on the water main at the school. Gary Fredette said it was his understanding the water main would not be impacted. There was a discussion regarding the location of the water main and lines. Mr. Fredette encouraged the Board to proceed with projects that addressed stormwater while state funds were available. Otherwise, he said the Town could finance the full cost in the future of stormwater flowing from local roads into Otter Creek and eventually ending up in Lake Champlain. Mr. Baker said there was an old school foundation, abandoned leach fields, and concrete tanks on the property. K. Luzader asked that comments be passed onto Watershed Consultants. The town administrator agreed and said Fire District 1 officials, Chris Hayes from Simonds Operation (who oversees village water and sewer), and Gary Marcy Director of Facilities

for Mill River Unified Union School District had been consulted throughout the design process. She noted Watershed Consultants had contacted the Town's zoning administrator earlier in the day seeking necessary local permits and to schedule a public hearing if required.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 7:25.p.m. Motion carried (5-0). Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 21st Day of March, 2022

Wallingford Selectboard