

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

May 16, 2022

Selectboard Members Present: Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, Kathy Luzader and Nelson Tift. Justin Jankus was not in attendance.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Erika Berner, Bruce Dobbins, Jordan Jankus, Debbie Scranton, Carol Macleod, Julie Sharon, Roger Sheehan, Jr., Anthony Fahoury, and Greg McCormack.

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

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board approved adding Steve Lanfear vacation time request to the agenda.

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 05/02/22 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 05/17/22 pay order total of \$57,276.08. Motion carried (4-0).

Honorable Mentions. N. Tift noted the following Honorable Mentions: all Wallingford residents who participated in Green Up Day; Fire Chief Michael Hughes who volunteered to serve as fire warden until someone is appointed; Wayne and Debra Kelly donated funds to the Summer Rec Program.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew had installed the Boy With the Boot fountain and had been busy on a Better Roads project on Mooney Road and West Hill Road.

Salt Shed. K. Luzader reported she scheduled a meeting with Stan Wilbur on June 1 to discuss Highway Department salt shed designs/cost. She noted she spoke to Building Committee member Anthony Fahoury about this matter. Mr. Baker said the plan was to demolish the salt shed and extend the roof line of the sand shed for salt storage.

Mr. Fahoury referenced his report following his site visit to the town garage last year. He asked if the Building Committee should spearhead the effort to obtain design/cost analysis for upcoming grant applications. Mr. Baker indicated the Town was looking into an affordable way to store salt and some equipment. Mr. Fahoury expressed concern about the condition of the trusses. He recommended posting Keep Out signs. K. Luzader suggested obtaining multiple proposals.

B. Duchesne noted not everyone was in agreement with the claim the sand shed was about to fall down.

Hopper Road. Board members reviewed an email sent by David Miller requesting the Town consider maintaining the full length of Hopper Road. N. Tift said the road crew

maintained .16 miles in length. Mr. Baker said the road would have to be brought up to state specifications as there was no physical way to maintain and plow it in the current condition. By consensus, the Board agreed to send a letter to Mr. Miller outlining the road commissioner's concerns.

Public Comments. None.

Investment Report. Board members reviewed the semi-annual Investment Report prepared by Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon.

Elfin Lake Beach Erosion. Conservation Commission member Carol Macleod requested no more sand be delivered to the Elfin Lake public beach. Conservation Commission member Debbie Scranton indicated a state official, Amy Picotte, who visited the lake last fall said adding sand to the beach was not a sustainable practice. Recreation Committee member Jordan Jankus agreed.

Ms. Scranton noted Ms. Picotte said the beach had doubled in size over the years and the lake plume from erosion was an issue and suggested natural plantings to stabilize the bank. There was a discussion regarding applying for a Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) Design and Implementation grant due May 27th. Ms. Macleod said consultant Evan Fitzgerald had visited the public beach and suggested seeking design funds and then later seeking implementation funds. Ms. Scranton said Mr. Fitzgerald estimated design, permits, and a community input process would be \$22,000.

By consensus, the Board approved submitting the WUV grant application. Ms. Macleod asked about using ARPA Funds for the project. ARPA Committee member Bruce Dobbins explained the ARPA Final Rule allowed much greater flexibility in use of funds and the committee was in the process of distributing information to citizens/groups interesting in applying for funds.

Wallingford Day – Recreation Sub-Committee. Jordan Jankus said the Recreation Committee recommended the Wallingford Day group become a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee. He indicated citizens who donated to Wallingford Day would want those funds to be used for the annual event and not other municipal expenses, which may require carrying over funds from year to year.

B. Duchesne said a voter approved Reserve Fund was required in order to carryover funds. After further discussion, the Board tabled the matter until a full board was present.

Planning Commission and Recreation Committee Appointments. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to appoint Lucy Thayer to the planning commission for a three-year term. Motion carried (4-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to appoint Morgan Over to the Recreation Committee for a one-year term. Motion carried (4-0).

Fire Warden Appointment. C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to appoint Roger Sheehan, Jr. as fire warden for a five-year term. Motion carried (3-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

Sidewalk Update. N. Tift noted the Board received an estimate from Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Devon Neary for Depot Street sidewalk upgrades - \$163,520 (School Street estimate \$425,630 reviewed previously). The Depot Street small grant would require a 50/50 match, while the School Street large grant was an 80/20 match. The Town's financial commitment for either project would be about the same.

After discussion, N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to apply for a grant to construct new School Street sidewalks. Motion carried (4-0).

Concession Stand Hire. By consensus, the Board approved hiring Solan Farmer to work at the Elfin Lake concession stand.

Transfer Station Employee Substitutes. By consensus, the Board agreed to hire Jim Bagnall as a substitute transfer station employee as needed. By consensus, the Board agreed to pay substitutes \$13/hour.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. B. Duchesne said there was a tree by the E-waste storage at the transfer station that may need to be removed.

K. Luzader said the drainage holes on the pedestrian bridge were plugged. Mr. Baker said he would conduct a site visit.

Executive Session. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to enter Executive Session with Erika Berner at 7:40 p.m. as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) "the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee."

Motion carried (4-0).

The Board emerged from Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. N. Tift said no disciplinary action would be taken as the Board found no intent to cause disruption to person, business or personality. He indicated no action would be taken on Zoning Regulation updates until the document was formally submitted by the Planning Commission to the Selectboard. N. Tift directed the town administrator to send a response letter to Lisa Williams.

Vacation Time. Mr. Baker said working with a partial road crew last summer/fall as well as pending grant deadlines for road projects made it difficult for Road Foreman Steve Lanfear to take his three weeks' vacation. He said Mr. Lanfear asked to be paid for the unused vacation time. The Board reviewed the Vacation Time segment of the Employee Handbook and discussed the special circumstances. It was noted the Town received unanticipated income from the state Agency of Transportation for the Highway Department in this fiscal year.

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to pay Steve Lanfear's three weeks of vacation time this one time with a strongly worded letter this would not recur. Motion carried (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 6th Day of June, 2022 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Nelson Tift _____