

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

October 3, 2022

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Bruce Dobbins, Phil Baker, Michael Hughes, John Thomson, Sumio Seo, Julie Sharon, Carol Ann Martin, and Eric Davenport.

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

Agenda Amendments. Table Hot Weather Annex by consensus.

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the Minutes of the 09/19/22 meeting. Motion carried (4-0). N. Tift did not vote as he was not in attendance.

Pay Orders. B., Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 09/20/22 pay order total of \$27,951.40. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. Sandra and Alan Hochberg for donations to the newsletter and food shelf; The Survivors for performing at the revived Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series.

Public Comments. None.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported two trucks and the backhoe were being repaired. He outlined concerns with a driveway culvert alignment issue at the Ron Shaw property on Maple Street across from Family Dollar. He said the washout was a Town issue. The Board reviewed the Driveway Policy. N. Tift noted that ditch had been problematic for several years. After further discussion, by consensus the Board agreed to follow the road commissioner's recommendation to split the cost with Mr. Shaw to replace the culvert.

Eric Davenport thanked the Highway Department and the road commissioner for ditching and brush removal on East Street. He said it was a good start and he hoped it would continue. Mr. Baker said they would return in either November or December. He discussed purchasing a brush hog attachment for the excavator at a cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000 and noted he would get more information.

N. Tift asked Mr. Baker about reserving a mower with Haven House Farm Equipment Rental based in Middletown Springs for roadside mowing at a cost of \$2,000/week before January 1 to lock in reduced rates. Mr. Baker replied one week would be enough and recommended reserving it for the last week of June.

There was a discussion about Green Mt. Power's plan to relocate a power line from 1762 Sugar Hill Road to 370 Butterworth Road. Mr. Baker said he visited the site with a GMP

representative. B. Duchesne asked about installing a powerline in the ditch. Mr. Baker responded it would be installed in the shoulder area of the road and added he had no issues with the GMP proposal. N. Tift agreed as long as GMP worked with the landowners.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the Grants in Aid Equipment Program would be granting the Town \$5,600 toward a debris blower. She asked Mr. Baker to confirm the cost of the Buffalo Turbine he wanted to purchase, which was estimated at \$7,995 last fall.

N. Tift informed the road commissioner the Highway Department must follow state Best Management Practices while working on Grants in Aid and/or Better Roads projects. Mr. Baker agreed.

There was a discussion about speed concerns on Prospect Street and a citizen's request for the Rutland County Sheriff's Dept. to patrol Prospect Street. C. Behrendt said all Wallingford streets including Prospect should be in the patrol rotation to increase awareness of police coverage.

Wallingford Fire Dept. Coin Drop Request. Fire Chief Michael Hughes informed Board members the Town Hall alarm does not ring into the fire station. He also reminded citizens to replace smoke alarm batteries when they turn their clocks back for daylight savings.

The fire chief requested permission to hold a coin drop on Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. with an October 9 rain date. He said the department had approximately \$12,000 in the checkbook and funds were used to assist funeral costs for members and former members, celebration expenses, uniforms, food, assistance with hospital visit lodging for spouses, Memorial Day costs, and maintenance of the department's first fire apparatus "Old Girl."

By consensus, the Board approved the coin drop request.

Recreation Committee Concession Stand Renovations and Survey. Recreation Committee member Sumio Seo explained NBF Architects provided a \$2,500 estimate for Jay White to create architectural plans for the concession stand. He noted a Dorset architect's quote was much higher. He said the structure was not ADA compliant and plans would be needed for contractor bids on renovations.

B. Duchesne expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. White's participation in a Town Hall project involving painting trim and sealing windows. He said his Request for Proposal was lengthy and not one contractor bid on it. He added Mr. White did not see the project through to fruition. B. Duchesne said the Elfin Lake concession stand was used just a couple of months each year and he cautioned extensive renovations could trigger state requirements to bring the building up to code at a substantial cost.

Mr. Seo said basic maintenance (as outlined in a memo from Bill Lohsen to the Recreation Committee and shared with the Selectboard) included: repairs to the garage door frame,

replace the drop ceiling, update all plumbing fixtures, interior painting, open the restroom in the garage, and replace changing rooms with storage space. Mr. Seo said an architectural plan would provide the information needed to meet minimum codes. He offered to explore less expensive evaluation options and obtain a quote for the garage door frame. N. Tift suggested asking Vermont League of Cities and Town's Wade Masure to conduct a site inspection. C. Behrendt responded board members should be aware the Town's insurer may recommend extensive upgrades that could potentially prevent the facility from opening next year. K. Luzader requested the Recreation Committee seek out estimates for maintenance items.

K. Luzader said the draft Recreation Survey's inclusion of a free ebike program was interesting. B. Duchesne objected to the survey's mention of an online reservation system for the tennis court. C. Behrendt said she would like a schedule of use developed for the ballfields so citizens were aware when recreational properties were in use. K. Luzader agreed a weekly set schedule for field use would be helpful. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer suggested the survey include questions for the senior demographic as well as cultural/Arts/crafts items. K. Luzader said the survey should be modified to include items for seniors and eliminating questions previously turned down by the Board, such as water at the ballfield. B. Duchesne noted Stone Meadow was under the purview of the Conservation Commission and questions related to that facility should be removed. N. Tift said the draft survey needed to be edited as it was basically a wish list that most people would check "yes" to each item, such as more fishing access areas.

C. Behrendt asked why Conservation and Recreation were separate groups and she added it appeared at times they were dividing resources rather than working together. Mr. Seo said the Recreation Committee planned to hold a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission to discuss potential projects. Mr. Seo said he would inform Shannon Pytlik - who drafted the survey - of the needed edits and possibly revisit the matter at the Selectboard's October 17 meeting. J. Jankus suggested incorporating the survey into an upcoming newsletter and on the municipal website. Board members thanked Mr. Seo for his work on the concession stand.

VLCT PACIF Renewal. Board members reviewed the annual VLCT PACIF Renewal forms. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to revise the sand shed value to \$100,000 and add a furniture container bin valued at \$6,000. Motion carried (5-0).

Florence Avenue Petition. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon informed the Board she received a petition on September 26, 2022 signed by 106 voters requesting a townwide vote on the proposed Traffic Ordinance Amendment that would make Florence Avenue a one-way street. She explained a Secretary of State's Office official said it was up to the Selectboard whether ballots should be mailed to every voter or distribute ballots at the polls on Election Day and by request. She advised the cost would be about \$1,000 to mail out the ballots. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to provide a separate ballot at the polls and by request. Motion carried (5-0).

Errors and Omissions. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve Assessor John Tiffany’s recommendation to adjust the Grand List through Errors and Omissions on the three Aubrey parcels for a total reduction of \$15,800. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by B. Duchesne to approve spending \$500 for Rob Barker to remove a limb and tree at West Hill Cemetery. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift noted the Town’s Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) rating.

N. Tift noted the town administrator submitted a request to use Wallingford Elementary School for the annual Town Meeting in March.

N. Tift announced bluegrass trio DaddyLongLegs would be performing at Town Hall on Wednesday, October 26th.

APPROVED THIS 17th Day of October, 2022 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Nelson Tift _____