

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

November 7, 2022

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Denise Eddy, Patricia Bowen, Gary Fredette, Mark Tessier, Eileen Tessier, Ann Vanneman, Paul Rondinone, Bob Crosby, Jane Crosby, Bill Scranton, Debbie Scranton, Carol Macleod, Erika Berner, Jill Burkett, Lisa Cotrupi, John Cotrupi, Jordan Jankus, Rose Regula, and Bruce Dobbins.

Selectboard Chair Bruce Duchesne called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to enter executive session at 5:16 p.m. individually with Rose Regula, Bruce Dobbins and Mark Tessier under 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3)) for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Motion carried (4-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to exit executive session at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried (4-0). Board members agreed to take action later in the meeting.

B. Duchesne called the Revised Traffic Ordinance Amendment public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. The board chair read the public hearing notice aloud. J. Jankus explained a number of citizens approached the board with safety concerns related to the intersection of Route 7 and Florence Avenue. After considering several options, J. Jankus said the Board agreed to amend the Revised Traffic Ordinance to make Florence Avenue one-way westbound.

Several residents attending the meeting expressed support for the amended traffic ordinance and shared experiences exiting Florence Avenue onto Route 7. Mark Tessier and Eileen Tessier expressed opposition to the amendment. Mr. Tessier said he could not recall an accident at that intersection and he said it would increase traffic at other intersections that were also problematic. John Cotrupi said residents on Florence Avenue were in support of a one-way street. Jane Crosby and Gary Fredette expressed concern about the limited line of sight due to parked vehicles on Route 7. B. Duchesne said it was the Board's intention to improve safety by making it one-way.

After nearly 30 minutes of comments, the public hearing closed at 6:25 p.m.

B. Duchesne called the regular meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus, the Board added Morgan Over's resignation from the Recreation Committee to the agenda. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to accept Morgan Over's resignation with regrets. Motion carried (4-0). B.

Duchesne requested the town administrator send a letter extending the Town's appreciation to Ms. Over.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to appoint Mark Tessier to fill the vacant Selectboard seat because of his previous experience on the Board and his knowledge of the municipal budget process. Motion carried (4-0).

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept the minutes of the 10/24/22 meeting. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 11/08/22 pay order total of \$1,570,814.95. Motion carried (4-0).

Honorable Mentions. John McClallen donated the \$200 he was paid to mow Stone Meadow to the Wallingford Food Shelf; Erika Berner baked all the items for the Town Hall Concert on October 24th and donated the \$122 proceeds to the food shelf; Bill Lohsen for shutting off the water to the Boy With the Boot fountain for the winter.

Road Commissioner's Report. None.

Public Comments. None.

Tax Sale. By consensus, the Board agreed B. Duchesne would represent the Town at the Spencer Nimtz tax sale in December, but not bid.

Hot Weather Annex. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adopt the Hot Weather Annex to the Local Emergency Management Plan. Motion carried (4-0).

Rutland Reg. Emergency Management Committee. By consensus, the Board re-appointed Jim Bagnall and Michael Hughes to serve on the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Employee Health Insurance. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to continue offering the Blue Cross Blue Shield platinum plan to employees with no changes. Motion carried (4-0).

Annual Town Report. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept Rutland Printing's estimate of \$2,595 to print 850 annual town reports. Motion carried (4-0).

Fitzgerald Environmental Associates Agreement. By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign the revised agreement with Fitzgerald Environmental Associates for Elfin Lake erosion designs to include the Billing section on page 4 of 8.

Selectboard Concerns. K. Luzader said she was sad to hear Morgan Over resigned from the Recreation Committee as she brought great energy to the group and was a positive person. She said committee turnover was an issue. C. Behrendt noted the Recreation Committee members were required to sign a Mission Statement with guidelines and she added all municipal groups should be held to the same standard.

Other Business. Board members discussed Assessor John Tiffany's recommendation to be proactive in scheduling a reappraisal firm before the state mandates reappraisal. Board members directed the town administrator to seek guidance from Mr. Tiffany on either an in-house reappraisal or a Request for Proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 21st Day of November, 2022 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne (Chair) _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader (Vice Chair) _____