

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

December 5, 2022

Selectboard Members Present: Carolyn Behrendt, Bruce Duchesne, Kathy Luzader and Mark Tessier. Justin Jankus did not attend the meeting.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Bruce Dobbins, David Fox, Shannon Pytlik and Greg McCormick.

Selectboard Chair Bruce Duchesne called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. By consensus the Board agreed to add Trustee of Public Funds appointment. By consensus, the Board agreed to appoint Patricia Pranger to fill the vacant Trustee of Public Funds post.

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the Minutes of the 11/21/22 meeting. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 12/06/22 pay orders in the amount of \$49,020.26. Motion carried (4-0).

Honorable Mentions. Little Angels Nursery and Pre-school, Ruth Anne Barker, Michael Gijanto and Aleatha Hawkins all donated groceries to the Food Shelf.

Road Commissioners' Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew had worked on the Creek Road bridge plate to reduce shock on the structure from vehicles. There was a discussion about the Maple Street retaining wall grant project and it was agreed the work would be in-house. M. Tessier asked about state permits and Mr. Baker said he would check with Agency of Natural Resources' Josh Carvajal.

Mr. Baker said he was seeking debris blower estimates and mower attachment costs for the excavator. B. Duchesne expressed concern about the Haven House Roadside Mower rental agreement's clause requiring 150 percent replacement value for damages. Board members agreed to table signing the agreement to obtain VLCT (the Town's insurer) input.

Mr. Baker said he would work with Road Crew member Charlie Woods on the Better Roads grant application and provide the information to the town administrator before the December 16 deadline.

The road commissioner said the town administrator had drafted a Vehicle Replacement worksheet. He recommended adding \$75,000 annually to the Equipment Fund or possibly as Town Meeting special articles in order to avoid loans and interest when purchasing new Highway Dept. vehicles. He said the FY'24 Highway budget would be substantially higher with material and fuel costs, a new grader payment, an excavator trailer, higher paving costs and more.

Public Comment. Bruce Dobbins said he would provide a written report of the Municipal Day workshop he attended related to FEMA floodplain maps. He said he also attended a Rutland County ARPA forum and noted Hazardous Mitigation funds were available to residents for the buyout of flood prone properties.

FY'24 Public Safety Budget Review. Rutland County Sheriff David Fox said there would be a 5 percent increase to the cost of law enforcement services starting July 1. He said the contract rate for 2022-2023 was \$44.18/hr. The projected rate for 2023-2024 with a 5% increase would be \$46.38 per hour all-inclusive based on current contract hours of 20 hours per week. C. Behrendt said there may need to be an increase in hours. Sheriff Fox said staff shortages was an issue, but he said he planned to hire more personnel. After an extensive discussion, the Board agreed to increase coverage from 20 to 32 hours a week starting July 1. By consensus, they agreed to budget \$77,177 on line 5406 Special Officer Contract.

By consensus, the Board set line 5402 Constable at \$250; 5408 Dog Warden Stipend at \$1,250; and 5410 Dog Warden Expenses at \$50.

Flood Resiliency Funding Program – Buyout Properties in Flood Zones. Shannon Pytlik said the Flood Resiliency Program offers funds to buyout properties in flood prone areas. She said it was a volunteer program available to Wallingford residents.

Ms. Pytlik noted FEMA had broadened the criteria to make more properties eligible and she said those properties would eventually be transferred to the Town for public access and possibly used for passive recreation, such as fishing or picnic areas. There was a discussion about septic and water disassembly costs and loss of property tax revenue. B. Duchesne stressed it would be up to the property owner to initiate an application and pursue the necessary steps.

Purchasing Policy Revisions. Board members reviewed draft language for the revised Purchasing Policy. B. Duchesne said he initiated the update because the existing policy refers only to employees and not municipal committee/commission members. M. Tessier suggested adding language about receipts. Prior to the meeting, Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon had offered input related to tax exemption forms. After further discussion, the matter was tabled until further revisions were added to clarify small, medium and large purchases for non-employees.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. B. Duchesne pointed out there was a run-off election for a Justice of the Peace position. He said the Spencer Nimtze tax sale had been postponed. He thanked Phil Baker for removing the bike jumps at Stone Meadow.

By consensus, the Board agreed the Conservation Commission could set their own meeting times (commissioners requested a 4:30 p.m. start time).

B. Duchesne said the Town had received \$14,800 from Grants in Aid for a road project. By consensus, the Board approved \$50 holiday gift certificates for employees.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 19th Day of December, 2022 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____