

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Julie Sharon, Tammy Heffernan, and Greg McCormack.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 01/02/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 01/18/23 pay order total of \$33,971.93. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. Sanford Witherell donated funds for Sugar Hill Cemetery maintenance; Deb and Tom Papperman, Ann Vanneman and Sabra Shulman donated to the monthly newsletter; Ozzie and Linda Mercado donated to the food shelf; and Michael Macleod Ball donated to the Conservation Commission.

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the International purchased from the Town of Clarendon likely blew a head gasket. There was a discussion regarding the Diesel Emissions Program to replace the vehicle, but Board members said it would not likely qualify after reviewing requirements. Mr. Baker advised he would seek a quote to repair it, but he cautioned it would not be worth it if it was over \$10,000.

Certificate of Mileage and Special Weights. Mr. Baker said there were no special weights to report. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked specifically about Elm Street Extension bridge. Mr. Baker replied there was no special weight for that structure. He said Van Wyck and Carrara Camp bridges fall under set state weight limits.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader authorizing approval of the Certificate of Mileage with no changes other than the state notation for Dugway Road. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comments. Lee Houghton asked if the Board had reviewed his letter. Board members indicated they had read it. Mr. Baker said the Highway Department had a 1,000 gallon tank to be used for the spread of chloride. Mr. Houghton commented the \$975 budgeted in fiscal year 2024 chloride may not be enough. Mr. Baker said he thought it would suffice.

Fiscal Year '24 Budget. B. Duchesne said the latest draft of the budget included a number of reductions for Board consideration. J. Jankus said the two main areas included reductions to the law enforcement budget (\$17,000) and utilizing the Revenue Augmentation Trust when the trust expires in December for the grader payment (\$50,000) rather than incorporating it into the spending plan. C. Behrendt expressed the need for an increased law enforcement presence to respond to a wide range of calls from theft to speeding concerns. M. Tessier suggested making a larger down payment on the grader using trust funds in order to limit the payments in future municipal budgets. B. Duchesne said voters at Town Meeting last year approved using 2/3 of the trust for a capital purchase. He said the actual down payment amount could be decided at a later date.

After further discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the fiscal year 2024 budget of \$1,466,795.24 (a 6.2 percent increase requiring a municipal tax rate increase of \$.0573). Motion carried (5-0).

Town Meeting Warning. B. Duchesne thanked Moderator Tammy Heffernan for suggesting amended the language for Article VIII related to Wallingford Day.

J. Jankus asked about the tax stabilization articles. The town administrator and Ms. Heffernan responded the groups were non-profits and the articles reduced property tax obligations.

The town administrator confirmed with the town clerk and treasurer the amounts for Article IV were \$1,426,795.24 for expenses and \$1,051,133.39 to be raised in taxes.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the Town Meeting Warning. Motion carried (5-0).

Request for Proposal – Townwide Reappraisal. B. Duchesne indicated NEMRC was the only firm to submit a request for proposal for a state mandated townwide reappraisal of the 2026 Grand List. The Board reviewed a worksheet of income and expenses related to the reappraisal. It was noted funds would need to be included in future budgets as there was \$79,459 in the Reappraisal Fund with about \$10,000 to be added by June 30 (state funds) and similar amounts from the state added annually.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to accept NEMRC's proposal of \$133,800 for the townwide reappraisal. Motion carried (5-0).

Sidewalk Grant Project Manager Agreement. By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign the Municipal Project Manager Agreement with Rutland Regional Planning Commission for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant CA0724 for School Street Sidewalk rehabilitation.

Ballfield Trees. By consensus, the Board approved an estimate of \$600 from Rob Barker to remove tree limbs at the ballfield with the added stump dump fees.

M. Tessier suggested the road crew could take the debris along with other transfer station yard waste to the old TAM site in Bennington. The town administrator said she would research it.

Annual Town Report Dedication. The Board by consensus approved the annual Town Report dedication and Selectboard report. B. Duchesne thanked the town administrator.

Selectboard Concerns. K. Luzader raised a concern about water runoff on Prospect and Hull Streets.

Other Business. By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign a letter of support for Michelle Kenny, who is seeking state funds for Wallingford Block revitalization efforts.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 6 Day of February, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____