

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

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

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Jill Stone Teer, Sumio Seo, Peg Soule, Robert Soule and Bruce Dobbins.

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

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Public Comments.** None.

**ARPA Recommendations for Funding.** The Board reviewed the ARPA Committee's Final Report featuring summaries of the 27 submitted applications. M. Tessier said his priority was to award funds that benefited the whole Town not certain areas. ARPA Chair Peg Soule said the committee tried to distribute funds as broadly as possible to include all three villages and she noted only two applications were submitted for South Wallingford projects and just one for East Wallingford. The ARPA Committee recommended funding for the following applications:

~ **Application #3 and #4: South Wallingford Water Company \$8,445** - The purpose of Application #3 was to replace a failed water line that has resulted in two households having almost no water and all other homes on the line having minimal water pressure. The purpose of Application #4 was to replace the failed water main that resulted in 750,000 gallons of chlorinated water leaking into the ground putting the entire system at risk of both freezing and of being insufficient in the event of a drought. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve Applications 3 and 4. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #6: Town of Wallingford Sidewalks \$108,750** - The purpose of this request was to replace the existing sidewalks on both sides of School Street. The Town secured a grant for project and the ARPA Funds would be used as the local match. B. Duchesne said the sidewalk design estimate was double the budget. It was agreed the Board may consider additional ARPA funds as needed. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #6. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #9: Highland Water Supply Association \$9,200** - The purpose of this request was to replace leaking curb stops in the Highland Water System that resulted in lower water pressure and an increase in water usage, raising costs for both Highland water users and for the Fire District #1 system. K. Luzader made a motion that was

seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #9. Motion carried (3-1). M. Tessier voted in the minority.

~ **Application # 13: East Wallingford Fire Department \$100,000** - The purpose of this request was to purchase a new and larger tanker-pumper fire truck capable of carrying more water and more equipment, thus increasing the speed of response possible. There was a discussion regarding the timeframe to raise the rest of the funds needed to purchase the fire truck as the Town would need to obligate ARPA funds by the end of 2024 and spend the funds by the end of 2026. By consensus, the Board agreed to table action on the application and invite Dave Seward to a meeting to discuss this matter further.

~ **Application #14: Town of Wallingford \$1,500** - The purpose of this request was to install a security camera at the Town Hall as required by the state to ensure the ballot drop box was under 24-hour security. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve Application #14 with no dollar amount until a revised estimate was submitted. Motion carried (3-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

~ **Application #18: Town of Wallingford \$20,700** - The purpose of this request was to purchase a generator for Wallingford Town Hall and use ARPA funds as a local match for a VEM Grant. The Board tabled this item as VEM project approval had been delayed making the September 2023 deadline for project completion impossible.

~ **Application #20: Wallingford Rescue Squad \$9,228** - The purpose of this request was to purchase both a stair-chair and a generator to be installed at the WRS building. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #20. Motion carried (4-0). Board members agreed Wallingford Rescue could request additional funds if costs were higher.

~ **Application #21: Fire District #1 \$18,000** - The purpose of this request was to fund the 20-year evaluation of Fire District #1's wastewater treatment plant as required by the state. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #21. Motion carried (3-0). M. Tessier abstained.

~ **Application #26: Cecile Betit and Jill Stone \$1,395** - The purpose of this request is to perform a need and risk assessment for telecommunications in the Town of Wallingford during power outages or other emergency situations. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #26. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #7: Gilbert Hart Library \$16,800** - The purpose of this request is to replace the failing hip tiles on the library roof in order to protect the physical structure and the building's contents. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve Application #7. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #8: Town Clerk Digitize Land Records \$81,000** - The purpose of this request was to digitize the Wallingford Land Records Volumes 1-100. K. Luzader made

a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #8. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #12: The Main Street Café \$36,000** - The purpose of this request was to replace income lost to a small business due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Ms. Soule said this was one of the primary purposes of the ARPA money as described in the original as well as the Final Rules as presented by VLCT. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #12. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #27: First Baptist Church of Wallingford \$4,980** - The purpose of this request was to repair the chimney/roof of the church, which has already had damage to three rooms due to leakage. B. Duchesne raised the concern of separation of church and state. By consensus, the Board tabled action on the application until the applicant could research this matter.

~ **Applications #15-17 and #19: Wallingford Energy Committee \$82,450** - The purpose of these requests was to upgrade energy efficiency of Town Hall through weatherization, insulation, window coverings, renovations to the 2nd floor oil burner and AC units, and new HVAC units. B. Duchesne said the Selectboard met recently with the Energy Committee about these projects and provided a priority list of projects with boiler replacement and window sealing/trim painting as priorities. He said Energy Committee members agreed to draft Request for Proposals. By consensus, the Board tabled action on the applications until the RFP process has been completed.

~ **Application #24: Sharon and Ralph Nimtze \$10,500** - The purpose of this request is to purchase and install three solar radar speed monitors on North and South Main Street (VT Route 7) and on VT Route 140W. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve Application #24 contingent upon state approval and permits as well as a traffic study. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #25: Town of Wallingford \$26,320** - The purpose of this request was to improve cybersecurity at Town Hall to safeguard Town records, personnel files, and other sensitive data. J. Jankus said he spearheaded this application and would obtain multiple quotes before proceeding. By consensus, the Board tabled action on this application pending completion of a Request for Proposal process.

Board members reviewed the following applications not recommended for funding by the ARPA Committee:

~ **Application #1: Wallingford Energy Committee \$5,000** - The purpose of this request was to fund 50% of the cost (\$100) of home energy audits to Wallingford homeowners. The committee supports the concept of encouraging home energy audits; however, it is our understanding that free energy

audits have been available recently and not utilized. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to deny Application #1 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #2: Wallingford Energy Committee \$50,000** - The purpose of this request was to address the multiple issues that negatively impact the energy efficiency at the Fire House. The committee does not support this project because the Fire House is owned by the Railroad, not Fire District #1 or the Town. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to deny Application #2 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

~ **Application #5: Town Building Committee \$15,000** - The purpose of this request is to weatherize the Community Food Shelf portion of Town Hall. This application was combined with the Energy Committee Town Hall projects. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to deny Application #5 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

~ **Applications #10-11: The Wallingford Village Market \$13,250** - The purpose of this request was to provide an ADA compliant entrance to the proposed building for the Wallingford Village Market. This application was withdrawn when other funding for this project fell through.

~ **Application #22: Wallingford Fire District #1 \$66,000** - The purpose of this request was to install new digital meters that are more accurate than the current meters. With the extensive expected expenses facing the Fire District, the committee did not find this a compelling use of ARPA funds. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to deny Application #22 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

~ **Application #23: Wallingford Fire District #1 Unknown** - The purpose of this request was to upgrade the water and sewer systems of Fire District #1. Information regarding the project and costs were unavailable until the evaluation of the system was completed. According to information presented to the committee, this was likely to require such extensive funding that a bond would be needed. Therefore, the committee decided ARPA funds should be used for other projects. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to deny Application #23 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

B. Duchesne congratulated ARPA Committee members on their diligent and extensive work on behalf of the applicants and the entire Wallingford community. He said the Selectboard was grateful for their efforts.

**ARPA Recipient Documentation.** There was a discussion regarding documentation required of ARPA fund recipients. It was agreed recipients would be required to follow the Town's Purchasing Policy with the exception of those applicants who had already expended funds and were seeking reimbursement.

**Other Business.** The Board reviewed Milton CAT's estimates for three different roadside mower/mulcher attachments. It was noted a mower would benefit every neighborhood within the Town of Wallingford. After a discussion regarding the history of municipal roadside mowing challenges and costs as well as other mower attachment options, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to expend \$28,000 in ARPA Funds to purchase a Milton CAT HM210 Mulching Head with a 40" working width. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 5th Day of June, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Duchesne \_\_\_\_\_

Justin Jankus \_\_\_\_\_

Kathy Luzader \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Tessier \_\_\_\_\_