

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2023

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker and Sumio Seo.

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

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 06/19/23 and 06/05/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). J. Jankus was not present yet.

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 07/18/23 pay order total of \$58,316.34. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Road Foreman Steve Lanfear, Town Administrator Sandi Switzer, Selectboard member Kathy Luzader and himself toured infrastructure storm damage with VTrans officials earlier in the day. He said early estimates indicated \$145,000 in road/bridge damages for eligible Town highways. FEMA required a minimum damage total of \$5,000 per road to qualify for reimbursement, therefore several roads would not be included in the storm total.

Mr. Baker said the town garage would need to be cleaned up. S. Switzer asked about building/content damage to report to VLCT for insurance purposes. Mr. Baker said no equipment was damaged, but he said the road crew would assess the building. S. Switzer asked about hiring someone to assess the water damage. Mr. Baker said not at this time. S. Switzer said VLCT wanted a report this week of any municipal property damage.

K. Luzader reminded Wallingford residents and business owners to report their damage to VT 211.

Mr. Baker asked about roadside mowing. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Justin to hire Phil Baker and Sons for roadside mowing at \$120/hour. Motion carried (5-0).

B. Duchesne said he gave the authority to Phil Baker and Sons to work with the road crew on emergency storm damage repairs on municipal roads in order to assist stranded residents. Board members reviewed contractor estimates solicited via telephone by the town administrator (contractors recommended by VTrans District 5's Jim Cota). Colby Tanner estimated \$140/hr and \$500 for trucking for his CAT 313 Excavator; and Mike Hassett of Green State Excavating estimated \$235/hr full size excavator and \$185/hr for

mini excavator. Phil Baker and Sons price was \$165/hr for his mini excavator. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve an agreement with Phil Baker and Sons for storm damage repairs. Motion carried (5-0).

Paving Bids. B. Duchesne opened sealed paving bids from Pike Industries, Wilk, and Fuller Sand and Gravel for a Seward Hill/Sugar Hill intersection, a section of Waldo Lane and Maple Street, and Creek Road Bridge separately. Pike bid \$120/ton and estimated 705 tons and \$10,400 for the bridge; Wilk bid \$134/ton and estimated 660 tons and \$7,000 for the bridge; Fuller bid \$197.50/ton and estimated 626 tons and \$5,925 for the bridge. Mr. Baker said he would check with contractors on a per road estimate. By consensus, the Board tabled the matter.

Honorable Mentions. Barbara Kaminski for donating funds for the Wallingford Day fireworks display; Wallingford Community Thrift for donating fund to the Summer Rec Program; Mark Tessier for assisting the road crew in moving the vehicles before the town garage was flooded and helping with sand bags at the garage; Bruce Duchesne for assisting with photo documentation of the road damage; and the citizens of this community for helping their neighbors in this flood event. And, Honorable Mentions to the Wallingford Road Crew and first responders for their outstanding response to the flood event July 10th.

Public Comments. None.

Quarterly Financials. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon estimated a year end net income of \$92,909.87. She noted a final June 30, 2023 pay order for records' restoration, Mt. Holly plowing and grading, and Ferguson culverts would total \$13,488.40 to reduce the net amount.

There was a discussion about the ballfield water project. Sumio Seo said Kevin Ruane would excavate for \$600 and Bill Lohsen would provide plumbing services for \$1,200. He said the Recreation budget surplus would allow the Town to move forward with the project. After a brief discussion, J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 06/20/23 pay orders of \$13,488.40 with the addition of \$1,200 for Lohsen Plumbing and Heating for a total of \$14,688.40. Motion carried (5-0). J. Sharon said she would provide the final numbers for FY'23 at the next meeting and the Board could set the municipal tax rate.

Transfer Station Fees. Wallingford Thrift will be donating funds directly to residents impacted by the flood that could offset some of the disposal costs. The Board took no action on reducing transfer station rates.

Conservation Commission Appointment. By consensus, the Board followed the Conservation Commission's recommendation and agreed to appoint Denise Eddy for a four-year term.

Town Hall Fire Escape Lights. Board members reviewed Jeff Duchesne's estimate for Town Hall fire escape lights at a cost of \$1,350. K. Luzader noted the Purchasing Policy

considered that amount a “small purchase” and she thought it was reasonable. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the work with payment to come from the Building Fund. Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

Heating Oil Bids. B. Duchesne opened two sealed heating oil bids – Gecha at \$2.92/gallon with 30 days to pay; and Champlain Valley at \$2.80/gallon with 30 days to pay. Both fuel dealers would extend the price to Gilbert Hart Library at the Town’s request. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to accept Champlain Valley’s bid. Motion carried (5-0).

Fitzgerald Associates Contract Extension Request. By consensus, the Board agreed to extend Fitzgerald Associates work related to Elfin Lake public beach erosion reduction design from August 31, 2023 to October 31, 2023 at the contractor’s request.

Selectboard Concerns. J. Jankus asked about the Selectboard’s responsibilities related to the July 10th flood event. The town administrator indicated the Board may have to make some decisions or hold special meetings related to upcoming FEMA inquiries/visits/directives.

Other Business. B. Duchesne said Discover Books is now collecting hard and soft covered books in good condition at the transfer station at no cost to townspeople.

B. Duchesne noted Wallingford Day was held this past weekend and the fireworks and DJ would be rescheduled. J. Jankus said people enjoyed the music at The Block and K. Luzader said the contra dance and other music events were well attended. S. Switzer said Maria French had extended a long thank you to many volunteers and she should be thanked as well for her outstanding effort.

B. Duchesne said the state Dept. of Taxes notified the Town the Homestead Tax Rate is \$1.6248 (up 16 cents) and the Non-Homestead rate was \$1.6560 (up 11 cents).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried (5-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 7th Day of August, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____