

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2023

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, Paul Young, Donna Young, Erika Berner, John Thomson, Michael Hughes, David Fox, Andrew Cross, Ken Welch, Shannon Pytlik, David Cornwell and Tom Fort.

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 09/05/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 09/19/23 pay order total of \$38,570.12. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report.

~ **Loan Documents for Grader.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt authorizing the Board to sign Community Bank loan documents for the Milton CAT grader in the amount of \$266,500 over five years with a 4.93 per cent interest rate.

M. Tessier asked if \$266,500 was the total cost of the grader. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the total was \$291,500 less a trade-in value of \$25,000 for the Galion Grader. M. Tessier asked about using the Revenue Augmentation Trust for a portion of the purchase. Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon said trust funds would be available in December.

Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the Milton CAT grader had been delivered but the road crew wanted to install safety lights. He said lights could be added later and the grader should be put into operation. M. Tessier said he had a safety light he would donate for the grader.

~ **Winter Salt.** The Board reviewed quotes from Cargill, \$86.50/ton, and Apalachee, \$90/ton, for winter salt (Town purchased from Cargill last winter \$85.50/ton). Mr. Baker recommended Cargill. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept Cargill's bid. Motion carried (4-0).

Mr. Baker said the road crew was preparing road sections for summer paving. He noted Road Crew member Charlie Woods had replaced a driveway culvert on Dawson Hill Road

near the Holden property. The town administrator said Mr. Holden called to thank the Town and Charlie.

K. Luzader noted Highway Dept personnel needed to assist with the FEMA Damage Inventory.

Honorable Mentions. Charlie Woods for swimming out to the dock at the Elfin Lake public beach to bring it to shore for winter storage.

Public Comments. Wallingford Fire Chief Michael Hughes said the fire department planned to hold a coin drop on October 7 with a rain date of October 8 and he had a permit from the state and approval from law enforcement agencies. He said funds from the coin drop were used to purchase uniforms, tables and chairs at the fire station and to assist firefighters and their families as needed. He said he was unsure whether they needed Town approval for a coin drop on a state highway. B. Duchesne said the item was not on the agenda and could be added to the October 2 agenda. Chief Hughes said he would provide a copy of the permit to the Town.

Rutland County Sheriff Department Log. B. Duchesne said Board members reviewed the activity log for the month of July and questioned dinner breaks, paperwork in West Rutland and other activities time charged to the Town. Sheriff David Fox noted dinner breaks included sharing information about cases relevant to the Town of Wallingford. He agreed a couple of hours should be adjusted. He said there had been some personnel changes to better serve towns. Officer Andrew Cross said young officers were hired recently and the department was experiencing growing pains. They said Officer Justin Cram had been assigned to Wallingford. The town administrator said Officer Cram had worked in Wallingford in the past with good results. M. Tessier requested speed patrols on Route 7 South.

B. Duchesne asked about moving the flashing radar sign from Route 7 South to Route 7 North. Officer Cross said the cart was moved earlier in the day.

Buyout Program. Board members reviewed Vt Emergency Management (VEM) documents for the Buyout Program involving Paul and Donna Young's property at 1451 Route 103 and Craig and Gretchen Hunter's property at 33 Weston Road. There were questions raised about the Town's long-term maintenance obligation as well as possible uses for the land should the Town become the new owner.

The town administrator asked whether the Board wanted the town attorney to review the documents or would like to invite a VEM representative to a meeting. By consensus, the Board agreed to table the matter and send questions to VEM.

Conservation Commission Update – Tom Fort. Conservation Commission Chair Tom Fort provided an update of the Trex program at the transfer station. He said the Town received a bench from Trex for collecting plastics. The bench was located at the transfer station. He said with the Board's permission, the next bench would go to Mill River Union High

School as they were also collecting plastics and then he said a third bench would be installed next year in front of Town Hall. Board members agreed.

Mr. Fort said the Conservation Commission planned a fall cleanup day at two sites on Wallingford Pond Road. He said maybe next year it would be a public event, but this year he said it would be limited to commission members. By consensus, the Board agreed and allowed commissioners to bring trash from the cleanup to the transfer station. They requested advance notice of the cleanup date to inform transfer station employees.

Mr. Fort said the commission planned to plant four deciduous trees along the main trail at Stone Meadow and would like a load of topsoil from any Town road projects. Mr. Baker said there would be fill from a Waldo Lane project. Mr. Fort said the Conservation Commission had worked on a Mission Statement at the Board's request. He said it was ***"Protect Wallingford's land, water, air, and biodiversity."***

B. Duchesne said the Board would act on the Mission Statement at the next meeting.

Water at the Ballfield. B. Duchesne said Recreation Committee member Shannon Pytlik questioned the Board's action at the last meeting to delay ballfield water installation until next spring because it was not on the agenda. The town administrator provided Board members copies of a timeline prepared by Ms. Pytlik beginning June 5th forward related to the project. Ms. Pytlik gave an overview of the permissions granted for water installation. Recreation Committee Vice Chair David Cornwell said funds had been allocated, a contractor was lined up, and he would like to see water installed this fall. Ms. Pytlik noted Recreation Chair Sumio Seo had resigned over the Board's decision to delay until spring.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to allow the installation of all the plumbing, test the meter, then pull the meter until spring. C. Behrendt asked if that would require the Town to pay the plumber twice. Ms. Pytlik said she would check with the contractor, Bill Lohsen. A discussion regarding the water meter ensued. B. Duchesne said it would need to be disconnected each year.

At the conclusion of discussion, the motion carried (3-1). B. Duchesne voted in the minority.

After a brief discussion regarding excavation, Mr. Baker said the road crew would be available on October 9 when Bill Lohsen would be doing the installation.

Preliminary Designs for Elfin Lake Erosion Reduction Project. Board members reviewed preliminary designs by Fitzgerald Environmental Associates (FEA) for an erosion reduction project at Elfin Lake public beach. The town administrator said Conservation Commission member Tom Fort offered to collect and collate comments/questions about the design for FEA. B. Duchesne said the plans looked good. C. Behrendt asked about the fishing dock location. Ms. Pytlik said part of the design was to make the beach smaller and to install tiered vegetation with native plantings to reduce erosion. Board members had no other questions.

Proposed Zoning. B. Duchesne said the Planning Commission requested Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) review of proposed zoning regulations. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner said the commission incorporated recommendations from Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Ed Bove into the document. She noted other municipalities sought VLCT review. There was a brief discussion regarding the public hearing process.

B. Duchesne asked the cost of the VLCT review. Ms. Berner said she was unsure. M. Tessier said it would be good to have another set of eyes on the proposal. By consensus, the Board agreed to table the request until an estimate was obtained.

Recreation Committee Resignation. B. Duchesne announced Sumio Seo had resigned from the Recreation Committee. Ms. Pytlik asked if board members had seen his resignation letter. K. Luzader confirmed they were provided copies. B. Duchesne made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to accept Sumio Seo's resignation. Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne asked for a letter of appreciation to be sent.

Town Hall Weatherization and Painting Bids. B. Duchesne said Kevin McNally had obtained a \$600 quote for insurance to go along with his \$14,800 estimate to paint Town Hall exterior trim and seal/caulk windows. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to accept Kevin McNally's bid with the added insurance cost.

B. Duchesne noted the work would begin August 1, 2024. The town administrator said the work would not include the clock tower. Motion carried (4-0).

Energy Committee member Ken Welch said he was disappointed there were only two bids submitted for a Town Hall weatherization project. He added both contractors were well qualified. There was a discussion regarding eliminating the added cost of a wall to separate the communication area from the rest of the basement. The town administrator asked if Mr. Welch had a recommendation between Vermont Energy Works, Inc. at \$27,843, and Solsaa Building and Energy Solutions, LLC at \$24,800. Mr. Welch recommended Solsaa. After further discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept the Solsaa bid of \$24,800 (excluding the additional \$5,900 for the wall).

K. Welch said the contractor offered to do the work nights and weekends to avoid disruption during Town Hall business hours. Motion carried (4-0). B. Duchesne thanked Mr. Welch for his work on the Request for Proposal process.

Town Hall Use Request. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to conditionally approve a request by Roxanne Ramah of Shrewsbury to use Town Hall once a month for string quartet rehearsals on random days for 4-hour periods.

It was agreed it would cease if it caused disruption at Town Hall during normal business hours. Motion carried (4-0). By consensus, the Board denied the fee waiver request.

Selectboard Concerns. Board members agreed to post the 2014 International for sale at a price of \$7,500.

K. Luzader asked what could be done about Recreation Committee resignations. C. Behrendt said there was a perception Recreation had to jump through more hoops than other municipal committees. M. Tessier responded Recreation had the largest municipal budget of all the Town committees. B. Duchesne said they were focused on agenda items that fell outside their purview such as insurance matters when they ought to be following VLCT guidelines.

Other Business. B. Duchesne said the monthly financial statement for FY'24 was in the packet.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried (4-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 2nd Day of October, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____