

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Lucy Thayer, Erika Berner, Anne Awad and Charlotte Cook.

Selectboard Chair Bruce Duchesne called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

K. Luzader made a motion seconded by M. Tessier that premature general public knowledge of client/attorney communications would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion carried (5-0). K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to enter executive session at 6:15 p.m. with board members, Erika Berner, Lucy Thayer and the town administrator for confidential attorney-client communication for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). Motion carried (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to exit executive session at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K.Luzader to approve the 10/16/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). J.Jankus abstained.

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 11/07/23 pay order total of \$1,755,308.78. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. None. B. Duchesne announced the State of Vermont paid the fourth quarter FY'24 Highway Aid payment and it was noted the final payment was \$2,579.54 over the last three equal payments (Town budgeted revenue for highway aid at \$85,750).

It was reported VLCT said it was acceptable for the Town to make town garage flood repair damages rather than hire a contractor, but no details yet on insurance reimbursement. All repairs must be completed by January 2, 2024. K. Luzader asked if the road crew could meet the deadline. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would check with the road foreman.

B. Duchesne said Road Crew member Charlie Woods and the town administrator certified the completion of upgrades to 11 road segments as part of a Grants in Aid project for Sugar Hill Road. The grant will reimburse the Town up to \$27,000 for the project.

Honorable Mentions. Jim Bagnall, Barbara Kaminski and Patricia Pranger for reviewing municipal financial records as part of an annual audit; Jim Bagnall for volunteering at the transfer station; Conservation Commission members for spending a day cleaning up a truckload of litter and debris on Wallingford Pond Road; True Temper for donating wood chips for the ballfield playground; 14 citizen volunteers for spreading the woodchips; and Jerry Reynolds for mowing the transfer station lawn.

Public Comments. None

Reappoint Rutland Emergency Management Committee Representatives (REMC).

B. Duchesne said Jim Bagnall and Michael Hughes serve as the Town's Emergency Management Director and Emergency Services Representative respectively to REMC. He said Mr. Bagnall expressed concern that he went to Florida for a period of time in the winter, but the board chair added Mr. Bagnall was very pro-active and he recommended the appointment. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to reappoint Mr. Bagnall and Mr. Hughes. Motion carried (5-0).

Anne Awad – Municipal Project Request. Anne Awad provided an overview and maps for a proposed project to eradicate Japanese Knotweed on Town property at the corner of Route 140W and Waldo Lane in order to reclaim that corner. She said it would be a five year project with tarps eventually covering the area. She noted True Temper offered to donate wood chips to cover the tarps. Ms. Awad said she would donate a 12-foot maple to be planted there when the project was completed. She added it would take one morning of work for volunteers and Conservation Commissioners were in support of the project. By consensus, the Board approved the request.

Ms. Awad introduced her friend, Charlotte Cook, who was visiting from out of town and was interested in observing local government in action.

Town Garage Light Fixture Estimates. This item was tabled.

VLCT Uninsured/Underinsured Coverage. VLCT was required to ask municipalities to DocuSign coverage for Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists at either \$250,000 per occurrence or \$10,000,000 per occurrence. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier authorizing the town administrator to DocuSign the agreement for \$250,000 per occurrence as has been the standard coverage for many years and recommended by VLCT. Motion carried (5-0).

Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee Health Insurance Coverage. The town administrator noted the town clerk and treasurer would be moving to Medicare coverage December 1, 2023 and there would only be single plan coverage for employees along with supplemental coverages for employees on Medicare starting January 1, 2024. By consensus, the Board agreed to continue BCBS employee and supplemental coverages with no changes for the next year.

Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution. B. Duchesne read aloud a draft Resolution in response to a state Division of Historic Preservation request to participate in Vermont's

250th anniversary celebration. He said the state requested towns establish a liaison or committee to work with the state's commission on events and activities related to the anniversary. The town administrator said Michael and Joyce Barbieri agreed to assist and distribute information as needed. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adopt the resolution. Motion carried (5-0).

Elfin Lake Erosion Reduction Final Design. Board members reviewed Fitzgerald Associates final design, report and attachments for the Elfin Lake erosion reduction project. B. Duchesne said the final design and reports covered everything requested. K. Luzader said designs could be added to the municipal website if capacity allowed.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. B. Duchesne read the municipal budget schedule for the next two months. M. Tessier requested all municipal groups submit proposed budgets by the end of November in order to give board members ample time for review. Board members agreed.

B. Duchesne said VT Emergency Management's Brian McWalter's met with the town administrator to review two Buyout Program applications (Hunter and Young). He said applications and supporting documents must be submitted to VEM by December 1.

B. Duchesne noted the VLCT recommendations for improvements to the ballfield playground. Board members agreed the road crew should relocate the smaller homemade skateboard park ramps to the town garage and give citizens time to collect them.

The board chair announced the Sidewalk public hearing was Thursday, November 9 beginning with a stroll along the sidewalks at 4:00 p.m. then a forum at 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee Appointment. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to appoint Mark Noble to the Recreation Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried (5-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 20th Day of November, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____