

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2023

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Dave Seward, Nate Miner, Dave Johnson, Susan Czechel, Eric Davenport, and Erika Berner.

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 11/06/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to approve the 11/21/23 pay order total of \$61,102.45. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. None. B. Duchesne said Road Commissioner Phil Baker indicated the road crew would be available to complete town garage flood damage by VLCT's January 1 deadline.

Honorable Mentions. Justin Jankus helping with computer/website issues at Town Hall; Mark Tessier for trying to update the flashing radar sign on School Street as required by VTrans; Lil Angels Day Care on South Main Street held a food drive and donated boxes of food to the food shelf along with several gift cards for milk at Stewarts.

Public Comments. Eric Davenport said this was his annual visit to request roadside mowing on East Street. He said the work was promised yearly for the past five years. He asked what he needed to do to get on the list of projects to be completed. There was a discussion regarding the Highway Department's Milton CAT mulcher that needed to be wired to the new excavator and the road foreman was seeking schematics. M. Tessier offered to visit the town garage to assist. Board members indicated they would request the road foreman provide an estimated date to complete the East Street work.

Energy Committee Mission Statement. By consensus, board members approved the Energy Committee's Mission Statement as written with a request for clarification regarding the point of contact section.

Town Garage Light Fixtures. Board members reviewed estimates from Jeff Duchesne (\$3,830) and Rob Stubbins (\$3,900) to replace 11 town garage light fixtures with RAB RBAY fixtures. After discussion, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to go with low bidder Jeff Duchesne at \$3,830 to replace 11 fixtures. Motion carried (3-0). B. Duchesne abstained.

By consensus, the Board agreed to use Building Fund money to pay for the lighting upgrade.

Town Hall Use Request. Susan Czechel provided an overview of her request to use Town Hall's second floor for weekly multi-age Wednesday dance classes (three classes starting at 4:30 p.m.). B. Duchesne said the Recreation Committee was sponsoring dance classes on Tuesdays starting in January and he would like to see how it worked out before scheduling more classes in the municipal building. He further noted the Building Use Policy was intended for single use events, not ongoing weekly events. K. Luzader expressed concern dance instructors would seek out-of-town locations if they could not find local venues for the classes. M. Tessier said the \$25 fee was for single use, so the Board would have to amend the Building Use Policy for a multi-day or ongoing event. J. Jankus and M. Tessier raised the issue of building access and the possibility of installing a lock code system. J. Jankus suggested offering the classes on a two-month trial basis. Ms. Czechel was amenable to the suggestion. After further discussion, the matter was tabled to December 4 to explore building access options and refining the Building Use Policy.

ARPA Request – East Wallingford Fire Department. David Seward provided an overview of the East Wallingford Fire Department's multiple attempts to secure funds to purchase a new fire truck with an expected delivery date of 2026, but no guarantee of cost even after an order was submitted. He said the purchase would be too burdensome for the 248 tax bills in Fire District #2. Mr. Seward provided a list of alternate purchases using the \$100,000 ARPA funds recommended by the ARPA Committee for a new truck. The list included a used low mileage fire truck, new turnout gear, updated equipment and tools. Nate Miner said the Scott company would be discontinuing support and service of air pack bottles rendering them non-compliant. Those items, he said, would need to be replaced. K. Luzader asked how long the used truck would likely last and Mr. Seward said 15 to 20 years. He added mechanics would be inspecting the vehicle prior to the purchase. Mr. Miner said the transmission was in good condition and it had low mileage.

After further discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the East Wallingford Fire Department's request to modify the ARPA application from the purchase of a new fire truck to allow the purchase of a used truck, gear and equipment not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried (4-0).

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would send Mr. Seward an agreement for the ARPA funds. It was agreed invoices would be submitted by the East Wallingford Fire Department to the Town to be added to twice monthly pay orders and vendors paid directly.

VLCT Review of Proposed Zoning Request. Planning Commission Chair Erika Berner requested permission to seek VLCT review of proposed zoning regulations. The matter was tabled at a recent meeting until industrial zone issues were addressed. Ms. Berner said the town attorney's suggestions were incorporated into the document and flood hazard mitigation language was added. She said Rutland Regional Planning

Commission's Ed Bove had reviewed it and made recommendations. J. Jankus suggested holding a public hearing prior to the VLCT review. B. Duchesne noted no funds had been budgeted for a review estimated to cost \$1,500 to \$2,000. After further discussion, the Board directed the planning commission to hold a public hearing and the Board would then revisit the VLCT review request. Ms. Berner said the public hearing would be held after the New Year.

Selectboard Concerns. M. Tessier said he was exploring options for a new telephone system at Town Hall to reduce/eliminate spam calls. J. Jankus said he was working on a Request for Proposal for cybersecurity upgrades and the phone system could be part of that project to be paid with ARPA funds.

Other Business. B. Duchesne said a Town Hall weatherization project to insulate the basement and seal up air leaks had been completed.

There was discussion about Development Review Board Chair Lucy Thayer's request to seek the town attorney's advice on a permit condition to include language the permit would be attached to an entity and not the land. By consensus, the Board approved the request.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 4th Day of December, 2023 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____