

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

**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, and Wendy Savery.

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 12/18/23 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

**Pay Orders.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 01/03/24 pay order total of \$18,666.56. Motion carried (4-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the Highway Dept had been using the roadside mulcher on East Street then would be heading to West Hill Road. He said Mike Shanahan had expressed concern about trees on the edge of Haven Hill Road. Mr. Baker said a tree service would be needed. The Board agreed Mr. Baker should meet with the tree warden for an opinion and estimate on the work to be done. Mr. Baker noted Mr. Shanahan said speeding was an issue on Haven Hill. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would speak to the Sheriff about it.

Mr. Baker said he was adamantly opposed to accepting funding for the Elm St. Extension debris removal project from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as there were too many liability concerns. B. Duchesne noted state River Engineer Josh Carvajal indicated in an email to the Town debris removal would do little to stop the river from flooding neighboring properties. Mr. Baker said the NRCS \$50,000 grant offer would be a "drop in the bucket" to cover the cost of hiring a contractor to haul debris out of the river. By consensus, the Board agreed not to pursue the funds.

**Honorable Mentions.** Sharon Seaver, Coleen and Milt Seaver each gave a donation in Ed Lord's memory for Recreation; Elaine Warzocha, Carol Macleod, Barbara Boucher, and Debbie Scranton for preparing the monthly newsletter for distribution.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Building Use Request.** Wendy Savery on behalf of the Gilbert Hart Library requested use of Town Hall second floor the first full week of March with loading into the building on Saturday, March 2. Ms. Savery is aware of Town Meeting voting on Tuesday, March 5 and dance classes the evening of Wednesday, March 6. She is also aware the elevator

cannot be used for freight. She said there would be dress rehearsals and likely three performances the weekend of March 8-10. By consensus, the Board agreed and waived fees.

The Board approved Tammy Durgin's request to use Town Hall on Tuesday, April 30 from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for an Earth Day presentation as long as the props used are of suitable size for the space. C. Behrendt requested and board members agreed the vendor must provide a Certificate of Insurance with the Town named as holder. The Board agreed to waive fees.

**FY'25 Administration.** Board members set the Administration budget as follows: line 5000 Auditors stipends \$300; 5001 Selectboard stipends \$7,600; 5002 Assessor Clerk Salary \$1,500; 5002B Assessor Expenses \$7,250; 5002C Property Tax Maps \$2,000; 5002G Assessor Contract \$19,200; 5004A Zoning Expenses \$300; 5010 Road Commissioner stipend \$2,000; 5011 Tree warden stipend \$250.

Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon asked about the new state required childcare contribution to be deducted from employee wages. The Board by consensus agreed .11 percent should come from employee wages. By consensus, the Board agreed on 3 percent across the board raises for municipal employees.

The Board agreed to budget for the reappraisal at \$4,000 a year for the next 3 years.

**FY'25 Insurance.** Board members by consensus agreed to set Insurances line 5025 (liability, unemployment, health, etc) at \$114,615.

**FY'25 Revenue.** The Board set the following line items: 4503 Ordinance fines at \$7,500; 4505 RR Taxes \$4,000; 4513 Zoning permits \$4,000; 4514 transfer station fees \$40,000; 4515 scrap metal/recycling \$3,000; 4530 overweight permits \$300; 4545 summer recreation program \$7,500; 4547 Elfin Lake gate \$6,500; 4548 Elfin Lake concessions \$3,000.

**E Waste Contract Extension.** By consensus, the Board authorized B. Duchesne to sign the E Waste Contract extension with National Center for Electronic Recycling (NERC).

**Solar Battery.** The Board requested the highway dept. seek information from local vendors for a battery suitable for the flashing radar sign.

**Town Report Dedication.** By consensus, the Board approved the Town Report dedication and thanked the town administrator for writing it.

**Revenue Augmentation Trust.** B. Duchesne said voters in 2022 approved a Town Meeting article for 2/3 of the Revenue Augmentation Trust to be used for capital projects and the balance reinvested. After some discussion, M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to use \$160,000 of the trust to pay down the new grader and refinance the balance over a 5-year period. Motion carried (4-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** K. Luzader requested the town administrator ask Fire District #1 to plow and sand School Street sidewalks on snowy and icy mornings.

**Other Business.** None.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.  
Motion carried (4-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th Day of January, 2024 Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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