

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2024

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, and Mark Noble.

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 01/02/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). J. Jankus abstained.

Pay Orders. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 01/16/24 pay order total of \$24,094.85. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the Highway Dept had two trucks out of service – the one-ton and the 2016 Kenworth. He said the road crew was using a VTrans dump truck in the interim.

Mr. Baker said the road crew should look into installing a larger turnaround in response to a road plowing complaint on upper Mill Street from Christie Harris. Ms. Harris said the lower portion of Mill Street was regularly plowed and she asked why the upper half was not. She said larger vehicles like the UPS truck negotiated the existing turnaround. She added the upper portion of Mill Street had not been paved in 40 or so years and she asked the Board to keep it in mind when setting this summer's paving schedule. B. Duchesne asked the town administrator to send a note to the road crew the Town expected all of Mill Street to be paved in storms.

Certificate of Highway Miles. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the VTrans Certificate of Highway Miles for municipal roads with no changes. Motion carried (5-0).

Honorable Mentions. Simons Operation for making a donation to the Town Hall food shelf; Mary Beth Holden for donating to the food shelf; Lyudmula Marshovska Herenchak for donating to the newsletter; Sanford Witherell Jr for donating to Sugar Hill Cemetery; Rob Rucker for donating to the Recreation Program in Ed Lord's memory; Ann Vannerman for donating to the newsletter; Linda Mercado for donating to the food shelf; Wallingford Rescue for opening their building over the weekend as a warming station as a result of power outages.

Public Comments. Mark Noble from the Recreation Committee said he would like to learn more about insurance requirements for recreation programs. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer replied Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns advised programs under the recreation umbrella are covered by the Town's insurance (waivers recommended) and those programs utilizing municipal property but not sponsored by Recreation require self-insurance and participant waivers. The town administrator said the Town was asking for waivers for all dance classes being offered at Town Hall – both the Recreation classes and the independent ones. She said the instructor for the independent classes provided a Certificate of Insurance.

FY'25 Budget. Board members reviewed the Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal of \$1,450,419 requiring \$1,080,388 in taxes. B. Duchesne said the spending plan was up 1.66 percent (\$26,624) over current spending. Board members offered no other changes.

Town Meeting Warning. The Board reviewed the draft Town Meeting Warning with eight articles, including Article IV asking voters to approve the \$1,450,419 budget with \$1,080,388 to be raised in taxes. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the Warning. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Report. By consensus, the Board approved the Selectboard Report for the annual Town Report.

ARPA Explanation. By consensus, the Board approved the ARPA Funding explanation for Town Meeting Warning Articles V and VI for the annual Town Report.

Selectboard Concerns. Mr. Baker asked permission to start gathering estimates for a replacement dump truck for the 2014 Kenworth. He said it would take up to two years for delivery after it was ordered and there was no financial commitment until delivery. The Board by consensus approved his request.

Other Business. B. Duchesne noted Vermont Emergency Management deferred a decision on the Young application (1451 Route 103) for the Buyout Program.

Board members reviewed FY'24 second quarter financials. No questions.

Mark Noble talked about recreation field maintenance as well as FEMA funding for repairs. The town administrator said FEMA would reimburse eligible expenses and the Recreation Committee should track all invoices and volunteer labor hours (names, dates, hours) for submission. She added FEMA had not yet reimbursed the Town for any July flood expenses. She noted neighboring municipalities were reporting similar hurdles with FEMA at a gathering of town officials last week. Mr. Noble said the Recreation Committee discussed options to cover maintenance costs, including a \$500 fee to Rutland County Little League. C. Behrendt said the clay with delivery charges last year was just over \$1,500. Mr. Baker offered to deliver the clay at no charge. Mr. Noble said everyone loved the Summer Recreation program and he hoped it could be expanded.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by K. Luzader to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.
Motion carried (5-0)

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 5th Day of February, 2024 Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Bruce Duchesne _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____