

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

**Selectboard Members Present:** Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, Kathy Luzader, and Mark Tessier. Justin Jankus did not attend.

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Carol Macleod, Carol Tashie, Dennis Duhaime, Jane Quigley, Denise Eddy, Debbie Scranton, Mark Barone, Tom Barone, Anne Awad, Ken Welch, Ralph Nimtz, Jay White, Phil Baker, Bob Jones, and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda Amendments.** By consensus, the Board added authorization for the Selectboard Chair to sign the Subgrant Agreement for FEMA funds for the 2023 flood.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 05/06/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

**Pay Orders.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 06/04/24 pay order total of \$18,454.21. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 05/21/24 pay order total of \$62,080.76. Motion carried (4-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Wilk Paving was going to be paving a section of Waldo Lane by the transfer station and the intersection of Sugar Hill and Seward Hill to finish up FY'24 paving. He said the 2016 Kenworth needed to be modified in order to pull the trailer and excavator. He said the cost could range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. He suggested line 5314 Hired Equipment could be used to pay for the expense. The Board authorized Mr. Baker to seek estimates by the next meeting.

K. Luzader opened the three paving bids received for Homer Stone Road and North End Drive. Bids were as follows: Wilk \$142/ton with 615 tons for a total of \$87,330; Fuller at \$128/ton at 674 tons for a total of \$86,272; Pike at \$119.95/ton for 715 tons totaling \$85,764. The FY'25 paving budget is \$85,000. There was a discussion about adding Church Street to the paving schedule at Road Foreman Steve Lanfear's request and using a portion of salt and sand budgets to pay for it. Mr. Baker said the site visit included Church Street and he would clarify whether bids presented to the Town included that road. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to award the paving contract to Pike Industries after Phil clarified the bid. Motion carried (4-0).

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer noted flashing radar signs on Route 7 and School Street were flashing messages in violation of the state permit. K. Luzader directed the road commissioner to inform the Highway Department the signs must be corrected this week.

**Honorable Mentions.** Tom and Michele Fort for purchasing materials to secure the new Trex bench at Town Hall and installing the bench; Bruce Duchesne for filling in at the transfer station for Jerry Reynolds; Wallingford citizens for volunteering to clean up and make repairs to the ballfields; Moriah Cutro-Kelly for her work on the pollinator garden at Stone Meadow; John McClallen for putting up the American flags in the village and East Wallingford; the road crew for

installing the Boy With the Boot fountain; Bill Lohsen for turning on the water at the Boy With the Boot fountain; Bruce and Maureen Duchesne for taking the boards off the Elfin Lake concession stand windows and doors; and Bill Lohsen for turning on the water at the Elfin Lake concession stand;

**Public Comments.** Mark Barone said a woman from Tinmouth collected trash from a number of Wallingford residents then blocked the solid waste bin at the transfer station so other residents could not access it. M. Tessier said the town administrator would request transfer station employees make arrangements with the hauler not to block the bin.

**Investment Report.** Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon presented the annual Investment Report detailing fund balances as of the end of April 2024. She noted she got the bank to increase the interest rate to 2.85 percent. There were no questions.

**Recreation Committee Activity/Purchase Updates.** Recreation Committee Chair Shannon Pytlik said there was a \$4,921 balance in the Recreation budget, which included donations. She provided estimates for soccer goals, painting supplies, gates for the ballfield playground area, and an Elfin Lake concession stand inspection as part of a capital plan. She said there were septic concerns and layout issues. Ms. Pytlik said Summer Recreation Director Lawrie Rounds requested hours worked prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> be billed to the FY'24 budget. There were no objections.

Ms. Pytlik explained the non-profit Come Alive Outside offered to house kayaks and paddle boards at concessions and would donate \$2,000 allowing citizens to use the items for 30 minutes at no charge. She said employees would track the usage. By consensus, the Board agreed. There were no suggested changes to the kayak/boat rental waivers. The town administrator said parts and freight for paddle boats would total \$215.

Ms. Pytlik said Masters Plumbing had offered to install water at the ballfield at no charge with the Town paying for materials/parts. R. Barker said they would need municipal plumbing certification. Ms. Pytlik agreed to inquire. There was a discussion related to ongoing efforts to locate the water line and whether to just replace the existing spigot. K. Luzader said the spigot was too close to the basketball court and could create potential problems. Mr. Baker said he would talk to Chris Hayes, who works in conjunction with Fire District #1, about the water line location.

The town administrator said there had been some discussion about a security system at the public beach concession stand in response to a spate of vandalism. Ms. Pytlik said Brian Ferguson would assist with that effort (as he did with the system at the ballfield) and she estimated a new security system would cost \$750 to \$1,000. She also noted the lock on the ballfield shed was not working.

By consensus, the Board authorized Ms. Pytlik to work with the town administrator and town clerk/treasurer to spend the remainder of the FY'24 budget.

Ms. Pytlik requested the road crew haul two more loads of material to the ballfield and Mr. Baker agreed.

**Bees at Stone Meadow.** Mark Barone said members of his family were allergic to bees and he questioned why the Town would allow introduction of bee hives at the municipally owned Stone Meadows Conservation Park. He said his family cannot use the facility and questioned the Town's liability. R. Barker responded Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns inspected the beehive area and made signage and fencing recommendations that were completed. He added the hives were

not located near any of the main walking trails. Tom Barone said the map made it look like hives were not far from the trail. He said he avoided the area due to the bees. He suggested relocating the hives to another location. K. Luzader said she recently learned from a National Public Radio report that honeybees were not native and local bee populations were put at risk by non-native bees. She said VT Fish and Wildlife recommended not buying non-native bees.

Conservation Commission Chair Denise Eddy said trash cans at Stone Meadow, the ballfield and the transfer station draw bees and Town Hall had an issue with hornets. C. Behrendt responded there was a difference between bees being attracted to an area and introducing bees to Stone Meadow hives. Anne Awad said visitors to Stone Meadow have to go out of their way to get to the hives. Tom Barone said they should be located far away from trails. Carol Macleod said the Conservation Commission had just purchased honeybees. K. Luzader advised the commission to consider Fish and Wildlife's recommendations for the future. Jane Quigley said bee pollination was related to the commission's conservation mission. Carol Tashie said without bees there would be no food supplies and not having honeybees creates rather than solves problems.

**Constable at Ballfield.** M. Tessier said following a spate of vandalism the Board considered asking Constable Robert Cook to remind citizens who he suspected of potentially violating ordinances of the local regulations. He said he wanted the constable to act in more of a civil rather than criminal capacity. Mr. Cook said there should be a visible presence at the ballfield, the public beach at Elfin Lake and even in the Ice Bed Road/Hartsboro Road area. He requested a magnetic sign for his car and a badge or vest. The town administrator said the Board had discussed a "see something, say something" approach with referrals to the sheriff rather than any confrontation. C. Behrendt clarified the Board was not requesting routine patrols, flashing vehicle lights or badges. The town administrator read aloud statutory powers of a constable. M. Tessier said Mr. Cook should act in the capacity of a municipal representative rather than law enforcement officer. Bob Jones said the Town should stop babying kids. C. Behrendt responded a greater sheriff presence was needed to keep the Town safe and that would be addressed at budget time.

Shannon Pytlik thanked the constable for his assistance with the Memorial Day parade.

**Town Hall Boiler Replacement Engineering Services and Heat Pumps.** Energy Committee member Tom Fort presented a chart with estimates for heat pumps with propane boiler; heat pumps and air-to-water heat pump; and heat pumps and resistance baseboard. He said Bill Lohsen spent hours at Town Hall last Friday with the Energy Committee reviewing heating and cooling options and the chart reflected those discussions. M. Tessier said the priority was furnace replacement then heat pumps on the main floor then finally heat pumps on the second floor. Mr. Fort said heat pumps would take over as the primary heat source and he added a piece meal approach was not ideal.

M. Tessier said state historic preservation representatives recommended heat pumps to the rear of the building and not attached to the sides. He said as far as the boiler replacement plan, direct vent up the chimney should be considered. He said the Energy Committee should draft a Request for Proposal for heat pumps on the main floor but the priority was boiler replacement. Mr. Fort requested the Board consider parallel proposals with replacing the boiler while simultaneously pursuing heat pumps.

The town administrator said she attended the meeting with state historic preservation officials along with Jay White and Ken Welch. After the meeting, she said she contacted the Town of Wells town clerk who responded they installed heat pumps at a historic building and those units were

ground mounted. The town administrator said state historic preservation officials had recommended the same for Wallingford or at least locate the units to the rear of the building.

After an extensive discussion, M. Tessier agreed to speak to engineer Dan Dupras regarding boiler vent and intake concerns; Ken Welch and Energy Committee members would work on a heat pump Request for Proposal for the main floor that would also incorporate the second floor; the Energy Committee through Robbie Stubbins would obtain electrical update and cost estimates; and the Board set dates for issuance of the boiler replacement Request for Proposal, site inspection and due dates. M. Tessier said the heat pump proposal would be revisited at the June 17 meeting.

**Energy Committee Resignation.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to accept David Castonguay's resignation from the Energy Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

**Shade Tree Preservation Committee.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to appoint Anne Awad to the Shade Tree Preservation Committee. Motion carried (4-0).

**Subgrant Agreement Authorization.** By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign a Subgrant Agreement for FEMA reimbursement of expenses related to the July 2023 flood.

**Farmacy Health Clinic.** By consensus, the Board approved Vermont Farmers Food Center's request to hold a Farmacy Health Clinic for free health screenings on July 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Bulk Mail Request.** By consensus, the Board approved Rita Reynolds' request to use the Town's bulk mail permit for Wallingford Alumni Association fundraiser letters indefinitely.

**Wallingford Day Food Truck Peddler Permits.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to waive peddler permit fees for the food trucks participating in Wallingford Day. Motion carried (4-0).

**Unlicensed Dog Letters.** M. Tessier made a motion seconded by C. Behrendt to issue a Selectboard letter outlining fines to dog owners who did not register their dogs by the April 1 statutory deadline. Motion carried (4-0).

**Selectboard Concerns.** R. Barker said the town administrator earned an honorable mention for stopping an alleged break-in at the Elfin Lake concession stand. He requested permission to pursue Restorative Justice options for the six youths issued No Trespass orders related to that incident. By consensus, the Board agreed Mr. Barker could pursue the matter then present a proposal to the full Board for approval.

**Other Business.** None.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 17th Day of June in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

Rob Barker \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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