

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2024

#### Public Hearing for School Street Sidewalk Project at 5:30 p.m.

**Present.** Selectboard Vice Chair Mark Tessier, Town Administrator Sandi Switzer, RRPC's Steffanie Bourque, VHB's Branden Roberts, Maria French.

Branden Roberts provided a 45-minute overview of the School Street sidewalk project with visuals depicted on a large monitor. He responded to questions from Maria French, Sandi Switzer and Mark Tessier regarding driveway impacts, utility pole relocations, traffic calming devices, and timeframe. The timeframe included final plans due May 2025, contract plans August 2025 and construction the summer of 2026. The 2024 cost of construction is \$660,817.38 with an anticipated 5 percent increase per year until construction is completed.

**Selectboard Vice Chair Mark Tessier called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Others present:** Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Arthur Nemeth, Samantha McPhail and Victoria Medor.

**Agenda Amendments.** None.

**Minutes.** J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 06/15/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

**Pay Orders.** J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 07/16/24 pay order total of \$68,571.31. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approved the 06/20/24 pay order total of \$31,377.63. Motion carried 94-0).

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to transfer ARPA funds totaling \$385,403.11 to Wallingford Asset fund. Motion carried (4-0).

**Road Commissioner's Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the 2016 Kenworth needed new brakes (\$2,500 to \$5,000) and he recommended the mechanic from Earl's Trucking install airlines and other equipment (\$1,500 to \$2,000) so the vehicle could pull the excavator trailer. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Mr. Baker said a number of residents asked him about roadside mowing on Church, Creek Road and Route 140W. By consensus, the Board agreed to hire Phil Baker and Sons for roadside mowing at \$125/hour.

**Public Comments.** Victoria Medor asked why the river behind the properties on River Street wasn't dredged to prevent future flood damage in the area. M. Tessier said the state was responsible for the rivers and he thought they should be cleaned out and put back to original

depth. Mr. Baker said FEMA offered \$75,000 in mitigation funds to the Town for debris removal. He noted real costs would have been \$500,000 and then the Town would have been responsible for maintenance over the next decade. After a lengthy discussion, M. Tessier urged Ms. Medor to contact legislators with her concerns.

**True Temper – Proposed Second Shift.** True Temper Plant Manager Arthur Nemeth said the company was considering establishing a second shift from either 2:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. to midnight. He said equipment to be used during the shift including the debarker was mostly enclosed (not inside). He provided the Board with a sketch featuring decibel readings at various work stations around the Creek Road property. For example, he said readings indicated 60 to 70 decibels around the perimeter of the property, 83 decibels by the blower, and 76 to 90 decibels at the debarker. Mr. Baker said he worked at True Temper in the late 1970s on a second shift. Mr. Nemeth noted at one point in the past there were three shifts. J. Jankus and C. Behrendt said they had no concern with possible violation of the municipal Noise Ordinance given the reported decibel levels.

By consensus, the Board agreed to support a second shift at True Temper.

**Restorative Justice.** There was a discussion regarding offering community service through Restorative Justice of Rutland County to the six individuals issued No Trespass orders for Elfin Lake public beach. Board members decided to invite a Restorative Justice representative to the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Heating and Cooling Systems at Town Hall.** Energy Committee member Tom Fort presented an updated table and Request for Proposal for heat pumps to be installed at Town Hall. He thanked Energy Committee members Jay White and Robbie Stubbins for their work on the document and all Energy Committee members for their critical feedback. He further thanked the Selectboard for granting permission to the Energy Committee to pursue this option. There was a lengthy discussion about the two options proposed with Option 1 including a four-head heat pump and boiler replacement estimated at \$83,000-\$93,000 while Option 2 included a six-head heat pump with resistance wall mounts estimated at \$47,000-\$73,000 depending on whether electrical service upgrade would be needed. T. Fort said under Option 2, heat pumps would be the primary heat source with the resistance wall mounts supplemental heat along with the existing boiler. He said the Town could wait on the boiler replacement for a year and gather data from 12 months of heat pump usage. K. Luzader said many homes and businesses were moving away from fossil fuels. T. Fort said heat pumps were the most efficient heating and cooling systems. M. Tessier expressed concern about the electric component of Option 2 and unknown costs as well as electric sub panel expenses. T. Fort said all of those concerns were addressed in the Request for Proposal. M. Tessier estimated the electric bill would increase from \$400 monthly to \$700 or \$800 a month. T. Fort replied the comparison should not be with present verses future electric bills but rather future electric bills verses future electric and propane costs should the Board pursue a propane heating system. It was noted the Town had already issued a Request for Proposal to replace the boiler with a propane unit.

After further discussion, J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve and issue a Request for Proposal for Option 2 – heat pumps and resistance wall mounts. Motion carried (5-0).

There was a brief discussion about hiring Engineer Dan Dupras to attend the site visit on June 24<sup>th</sup> related to the boiler replacement Request for Proposal. By consensus, the Board approved hiring Mr. Dupras at a cost of \$140 per hour capped at \$500. They further requested an estimate

for bidding and construction services. They further requested Mr. Dupras forward all sealed bids related to this project to the town administrator.

**July Selectboard Meeting Schedule.** By consensus, the Board agreed to only one meeting in July and that would be on Monday, July 15, 2024.

**Selectboard Concerns.** None.

**Other Business.** None.

**Executive Session.** K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to enter Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) “the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee.” Motion carried (5-0).

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to exit executive session at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to accept all annual evaluations and approve cross the board 3 percent raises for the zoning administrator, road crew, town clerk and treasurer, assistant town clerk and treasurer, transfer station employees and town administrator. Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th Day of July in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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