

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2024

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

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Phil Baker, Anne Awad, Eric Davenport, Joseph Elwell and Shannon Pytlik.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 08/17/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 09/04/24 pay order total of \$29,774.28. Motion carried (4-0).

Dog Bite Incident – West Hill Road. Board members reviewed Animal Control Officer Joseph Elwell's report along with Health Officer Trisha Nash's report related to a dog bite incident on 08/11/24 on West Hill Road involving Diane Fietti's German Shepherd (rabies tag 2023000294) and bite victim Grant Brown. Mr. Elwell reported Ms. Fietti was taking her dog out unleashed in the early morning hours as she did not expect pedestrian traffic. He said Mr. Grant was jogging down the road and the German Shepherd bit him causing four puncture wounds requiring medical treatment. Mr. Elwell said Mr. Grant had "no animosity" toward Ms. Fietti and even met with her after receiving medical attention. The animal control officer said this appeared to be a freak accident and Ms. Fietti was very contrite and assured him the dog would be kept on a leash or in a kennel outdoors and would undergo training.

M. Tessier said the dog bite incident was now a matter of record in case there were any issues in the future. By consensus, the Board agreed to take no action.

Transfer Station Fees. By consensus, the Board approved revised transfer station fees as recommended by transfer station employees. It was noted transfer station fees had not been increased since 2021 while solid waste expenses had steadily increased.

5K Race at Ballfield and Stone Meadow. K. Luzader said in 2023, Mill River Union High School hosted a 5K race at the ballfield and Stone Meadow and provided the Town with a Certificate of Insurance. She said waivers were not required. She said the school was seeking permission to host a race on Saturday, September 21, 2024. C. Behrendt said the course would be inspected a couple days before the race in order to complete any necessary maintenance and cones would be set out the morning of the race. C. Behrendt said the race would feature Middle School runners, the girls' varsity and the boys' varsity.

By consensus, the Board approved MRUHS request to host the 5K race at the Wallingford ballfield and Stone Meadow on September 21, 2024.

Casella Trash Compactor Agreement. Board members reviewed a five-year agreement with Casella Waste Management for municipal solid waste hauling, disposal and compactor rental.

Casella's Randy Dapron in an email to the Board indicated the contract was similar to one signed in 2014 with two changes: the agreement covers a five-year period as opposed to ten years; and the annual CPI adjustment will use the Garbage and Trash index for the U.S rather than the all-item CPI index. Fees are as follows: 40 Yard Break-Away Compactor - MSW: Haul: \$201.77/haul Disposal: \$140.60/ton Rental: \$220.00 per month includes maintenance, paint and response time

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt authorizing K. Luzader to sign the agreement. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Eric Davenport asked about roadside mowing and tree cutting on East Street. R. Barker said Phil Baker's mower was being repaired. Mr. Davenport said he was informed there was \$3,000 in the budget for tree cutting. Mr. Barker said as tree warden he would take care of it. Mr. Davenport said the Town could dispose of the debris in his gravel pit.

Recreation Committee's Grant Application – Implementation of Erosion Reduction Measures at Elfin Lake public beach. Shannon Pytlik said the Recreation Facilities Committee was working on two grant applications. She provided a brief overview of a Watersheds United of Vermont (WUV) grant application to implement erosion reduction measures at the Elfin Lake public beach. She said the design to be used for this project was created by Fitzgerald Associates last year as part of another WUV grant and there had been no changes. She said the plan focused on the northern end of the beach and featured a rock wall along with plantings of native vegetation and installation of two rain gardens. The goal was to capture and infiltrate stormwater and water runoff from the building. By consensus, the Board approved submission of the WUV grant application.

Ms. Pytlik said the committee was working on a grant application to be submitted in October that focused on upgrades to the Concession stand. She noted Ralph Nimtz had designed a building layout with improved bathroom access, a better flow to the structure and boat storage. She said it had been a challenge obtaining construction estimates and Mr. Nimtz recommended using \$50/square foot for grant purposes. She said the committee would return to the Board at a later date with more details.

Ms. Pytlik asked about the road crew hauling two to three loads of material to the south ballfield. She said they could dump it right onto the field. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she would remind the road crew.

Road Commissioner's Report Continued. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew had been grading roads and brush hogging with the excavator. He said roadside mowing with the grass mower would start next week. He noted there was a whole row of trees on both sides of East Street creating a canopy over the road. He said it was similar to other roads in town. He said the Board needed to decide how much to spend and where you want to spend it.

M. Tessier asked the road crew to purchase a couple of radar speed sign batteries so he could adjust signs to eliminate the flashing element as required by Vtrans.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. K. Luzader said the Boy With the Boot statue had been damaged last week and the Town was going through the insurance claim process. She said several people had offered to assist with fundraising efforts. She noted the Town was exploring a couple of avenues for restoration. She said little could be said about the incident as it was an ongoing Rutland County

Sheriff Department investigation. She said law enforcement officers were conducting a thorough investigation and she hoped for a quick conclusion. There was a brief discussion regarding restoring the statue and exhibiting it at Town Hall and placing a replica in the fountain. No decisions were made. R. Barker said there should be camera surveillance at that corner. Anne Awad said this matter had a huge impact on the community and beyond the Town's borders. She said she was organizing a meet-up at the fountain on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

K. Luzader noted the Board had received photographs of installed signage warning of bees at the Stone Meadow hives.

K. Luzader noted FEMA had paid for three projects from the July 2023 flood with one more project yet to be obligated.

K. Luzader noted the town administrator would be attending the VLCT annual fair in Killington in October.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 16th Day of September in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____