

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

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

Selectboard Members Present: Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, Justin Jankus, Kathy Luzader and Mark Tessier.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Anne Awad, Lindsley Kennedy, Sandy Marquis, Tom Fort and Linda Arsenault.

Agenda Amendments. Add solar contractor inquiries to the Town Hall heating and cooling section of the agenda by consensus.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 10/21/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). J. Jankus abstained as he did not attend the meeting.

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 11/05/24 pay order total of \$1,843,199. Motion carried (5-0). K. Luzader noted the pay orders included the education payment of \$1,733,672.28 for the Mill River School District.

Honorable Mentions. All the citizens who continue to donate to the Boy With the Boot fund.

Public Comments. None.

Boy With the Boot Painting. Linda Arsenault presented a Boy With the Boot painting she requested be installed in the empty fountain following the vandalism of the statue. She said the painting could be a placeholder until the statue was repaired and returned to the fountain. She suggested an "I'll Be Back" sign be installed alongside the painting. She said a sandwich board would need to be constructed as part of the project. J. Jankus asked about weatherization of the painting. Ms. Arsenault replied an autobody clear coat should be applied. K. Luzader said historically the fountain was empty from late fall to late spring and she asked whether any installation should be delayed until spring. Sandy Marquis said the painting and sign would assure citizens the statue would return. Ms. Arsenault and Ms. Marquis agreed to look into costs to construct a sandwich board and frame. J. Jankus suggested the painting be installed somewhere out of the elements.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said four contractors had inspected the statue and only one provided an estimate. She added a Barre firm would be inspecting it next week. Ms. Arsenault asked about security cameras for the fountain and K. Luzader replied the Town was considering it.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Dues. Board members reviewed a letter from Rutland Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Devon Neary regarding a switch from a flat rate dues of \$1,000 for Rutland County towns to a per capita dues. The dues for Wallingford would be \$2,129. M. Tessier asked about free services provided by RRPC and the town administrator provided several examples, including assistance with

updating the Town Plan, maps, and assistance with Grants in Aid documentation. After further discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to include the increased fee in the FY'26 budget.

Town Hall Heating and Cooling. Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said solar contractors asked about installing panels on the sand shed in addition to the town garage during recent site visits for the Request for Proposal. He noted contractors questioned the condition of the town garage roof, nearby trees that should be cut, and damaged sand shed trusses. Mr. Fort said the urgency at this point was to secure a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for remote net metering, which would be ending December 31st. He said the Town should consider hiring a solar contractor to secure the CPG at a cost of \$100 for the consulting fee and \$150 for the submission fee. He added a structural engineer assessment of the town garage would be \$1,600 to \$2,300. J. Jankus said an assessment of both the town garage and sand shed was needed in order to determine how to proceed.

After further discussion, the Board by consensus agreed the Town should hire a consultant to secure the CPG at the quoted rates. The Board by consensus agreed to expend up to \$3,500 for structural engineer assessments of the town garage and sand shed. They further agreed two trees identified by Mr. Fort could be removed. R. Barker said the funds could be taken from the tree warden budget.

It was further agreed by consensus the CPG item in the town garage solar panel Request for Proposal could be removed and contractors could offer estimates to install panels on the garage, sand shed or both.

No Parking Signs at Stone Meadow. K. Luzader said a sheriff's deputy and constable had asked about No Parking After Dark signs be installed at Stone Meadow. R. Barker asked what crimes were being committed. C. Behrendt cautioned this would prohibit citizens with good intentions such as star gazing from using the park. She added enforcement would be an issue. M. Tessier said maybe No Overnight Parking signs should be installed. J. Jankus asked for data indicating there were issues to be addressed. K. Luzader agreed and said more information was needed before a decision could be made.

Selectboard Concerns. M. Tessier said municipal groups should submit draft budgets for FY'26 at least two weeks in advance of budget review. He also asked a representative from each committee attend relative budget meetings.

J. Jankus said the Town was awarded the Elfin Lake erosion reduction grant. K. Luzader congratulated the Recreation Committee and Town.

Other Business. R. Barker agreed to attend Restorative Justice meetings related to the Eflin Lake vandalism complaint involving area youths.

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 18th Day of November in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____