

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

November 18, 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, Erika Berner, Cecile Betit, Tom Fort and Greg McCormack.

**Agenda Amendments.** Move employee health insurance to the end of the agenda by consensus.

**Minutes.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 11/04/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the 11/19/24 pay order total of \$19,419.62. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** None. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said she met with Road Crew member Charlie Woods to select a Better Roads Grant project. They decided on a culvert replacement project for Senecal Way and requested a hydraulic study, which should take place in two weeks.

VTrans' announcement regarding informational meetings related to a plan to update roadway guidance for planners and designers was sent to the Highway Dept and road commissioner.

**Honorable Mentions.** All the Wallingford citizens who assisted with General Election Day duties; Bruce and Maureen Duchesne for boarding up the Concession stand for the winter.

**Zoning Regulations and Town Plan Update.** Planning Commission Chair Erika Berner thanked the Selectboard and voters for approving amended Zoning Regulations. She said she was seeking Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns guidance as to when new regulations go into effect.

Ms. Berner said the Town Plan will expire in June of 2026. She said the planning commission with assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will update the document over the next year. She said the process would likely include an informational session, public hearing(s) and a vote by Australian ballot on the updated document at Town Meeting in March of 2026.

By consensus, the Board agreed to Ms. Berner's request to re-format the Hazardous Mitigation section of the newly approved zoning regulations with no language changes.

**Town Hall Heating and Cooling.** Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said the structural assessments of the town garage roof and sand shed would be conducted later in the week and asked the Board to keep that in mind when deciding on solar proposals for the structures. K. Luzader opened and announced the following proposals:

Contractor	Structure	Utility Savings	Cost	Net Cost w/Fed tax incentives
Gee	Sand Shed	\$3,606.29	\$59,500.00	\$41,650.00
Gee	Town Garage	\$3,606.30	\$78,500.00	\$54,950.00
Mountain Energy Design	Sand Shed	\$4,352.00	\$63,220.00	\$44,254.00
Catamount Solar	Sand Shed		\$52,562.00	\$30,198.00
SunCommon	Sand Shed		\$61,380.00	\$42,966.00

M. Tessier said the goal was to be net zero with monthly savings versus utility costs when deciding on the size of the project. J. Jankus said it was important to take advantage of federal tax incentives while still available. After further discussion, the Board tabled a decision on the solar project until the structural assessments were available, and the Board had more time to review proposals.

**Public Comments.** Cecile Betit outlined a plan to conduct a digital Need and Risk Assessment of Town of Wallingford telecommunication needs during power outages or other emergency situations rather than a townwide paper survey as part of a \$1,395 ARPA award. She said the digital survey would sharply reduce costs and would be promoted in the monthly newsletter and on Front Porch Forum. She said it would be conducted after the holidays. J. Jankus suggested making some hard copies available. The town administrator suggested offering gift certificates to local establishments drawn at random for those who participate. Board members agreed to the digital survey and gift certificates in the amount of \$25.

**CAI Technologies' GIS Software.** Board members reviewed the information sent by CAI Technologies regarding GIS Software for municipalities. After a brief discussion, the Board tabled the matter in order to seek the town clerk and treasurer and assistant town clerk and treasurer's opinions.

**School Street Sidewalks.** The Board by consensus authorized K. Luzader to review/approve the Town attorney's letter regarding No Adverse Impacts on property rights related to the School Street sidewalks as part of grant requirements.

**Selectboard Concerns.** None.

**Other Business.** K. Luzader noted the upcoming FY'26 budget review dates:

***Capital, Town Government and Public Safety on December 2, 2024;*** includes Capital, Town Government and the Public Safety Budget (first constable, dog warden and Rutland County Sheriff coverage).

***Recreation, Highway and Appropriations on December 16;*** Includes the recreation budget (including Summer Rec program); Appropriations includes all non-profit funding requests such as Gilbert Hart Library, Wallingford Rescue, and Highway.

***Administration, Insurance and Revenue on January 6, 2025.***

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to enter executive session at 7:39 p.m. for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Motion carried (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to exit executive session at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

**Employee Health Insurance.** M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to maintain employee health insurance with BCBS with no changes. Motion carried, (5-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 2nd Day of December in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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