

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024

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

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Erika Berner, Tom Fort, Juile Sharon, Phil Baker, Mark Noble, Eric Davenport, Michael Luzader, Sandra Hochberg, and Greg McCormack.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 12/02/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 12/17/24 pay order total of \$69,484.53 after \$200 was added for the Joy of Bells concert. Motion carried (3-0). R. Barker abstained.

Honorable Mentions. Kevin Mulholland of Vermont Forgings for offering to restore the Boy With the Boot statue for material costs; Justin Jankus for technical assistance with the municipal website;

Public Comments. None.

Zoning Regulations Update/Adoption. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner said Vermont Leagues of Cities advised the Selectboard to vote on adoption of amended Zoning Regulations as state statute passed recently by the legislature made Australian ballot voting on zoning ordinances and/or Town Plans invalid. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to adopt amended Zoning Regulations that were approved by voters during General Elections on November 5, 2024. Motion carried (4-0).

The zoning administrator said new zoning would take effect immediately. There was a discussion regarding the adoption process for the Town Plan, which is being updated. J. Jankus said citizens should be made aware of the adoption process going forward as the Australian Ballot system would no longer be used in those circumstances.

Gilbert Hart Library FY'26 Request. Michael Luzader representing Gilbert Hart Library said the annual funding request was \$47,000, up \$5,000 from last year. He said lights to be replaced in the Children's Room, Wallingford Day commitment, Wi-Fi, and the salary line item resulted in higher spending. After a brief discussion, R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to increase the Gilbert Hart Library (line 5205) by \$5,000 to \$47,000. Motion carried (3-0). K. Luzader abstained.

M. Tessier asked about Story Hour at the library. M. Luzader said some issues would be addressed and Story Hour would return.

Wallingford Rescue FY'26 Request. Eric Davenport representing Wallingford Rescue said the annual funding request was \$25,000, up \$1,500 from last year. He said this past year, Wallingford

Rescue responded to a record 364 calls. He said insurance costs had increased and there were plans to replace a stretcher. By consensus, the Board approved \$25,000 for Wallingford Rescue line 5210.

Mr. Davenport said Wallingford Rescue members discussed the Town's request to consider a municipal net metering system with solar panels on the structure. He said it was the general consensus of the group to deny the request because of concerns regarding possible damage to the structure's 15 year old roof, potential leaks from installation, and increased insurance costs.

FY'26 Highway. Following recommendations by the road commissioner, the Board set the following Highway Department line items: 5301 Town Garage Operating Expenses at \$15,400; 5302 Equipment Misc. at \$3,000; 5308 2011 Caterpillar Backhoe \$2,500; 5310 Sanders/plows at \$2,000; 5314 Hired Equipment at \$10,000; 5315 Diesel Fuel at \$34,375; 5316 Gasoline at \$1,200; 5317 Tree Service/Landscaping at \$3,000; 5318 Winter Sand \$35,000; 5319 Winter Salt \$45,000; 5320 Chloride \$975; 5321 Culverts \$9,000; 5322 Oil and Grease \$2,500; 5323 Gravel \$125,000; 5324 Blades, Chains, Shoes \$2,500; 5325 Paving \$95,000; 5327 Traffic Control Devices \$500; 5328 Road Crew Clothing Stipend \$1,500; 5332 Special Projects \$3,500 (storm drain cleaning); 5336 2104 Kenworth 6,500; 5337 2016 Kenworth \$6,500; 5338 2006 Chevrolet Truck \$500; 5339 Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) \$1,350; 5340 2108 Dodge Ram \$2,000; 5342 Milton CAT Loader \$1,000; 5343 2020 Milton CAT Excavator \$1,000. 5345 2023 CAT Grader (2 of 5) \$23,760.

Town Hall Heating and Cooling. Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort said a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) was filed for the town garage property with a plan to install solar panels as part of a net metering system. He said the Energy Committee agreed to use their budget for CPG filings. There was a discussion about solar options for the sand shed and ballfield parking areas. K. Luzader asked the town administrator to seek advice from the floodplain manager regarding replacement of the sand shed and viability of solar panels at the ballfield parking lots as well as updated pricing from a contractor on the sand shed. After further discussion, the Board by consensus directed Mr. Fort to obtain a CPG for the ballfield.

In 2023, the Selectboard tabled Energy Committee ARPA applications pending the development of Request for Proposals and selection of contractors for various energy efficiency projects at Town Hall. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker authorizing use of the Wallingford Asset Fund (formerly ARPA) to cover the \$24,630 from Lohsen Plumbing and Heating and \$2,324 for Rocky's Electric, LLC as part of a heat pump installation project at Town Hall. Motion carried (4-0).

FY'26 Recreation. Recreation Committee members Mark Noble and Sandra Hochberg presented the recreation spending plan. Mr. Noble said most line items were level funded except maintenance. He said committee members would like to see the Elfin Lake gate unlocked daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He volunteered to assist. M. Tessier said the concession stand would not be open those time periods and suggested a portable restroom for visitors. After further discussion, the Board set the following line items: 5801 Eflin Lake salaries \$10,000; 5803 telephone \$300; 5804 electric \$1,100; 5806 maintenance \$4,000; 5806 portable restrooms \$2,000; 5808 lake supplies \$500; 5810 lake concessions \$1,400; 5812 mowing \$3,000; 5814 youth sports \$500; 5817 recreation programs \$500. The Board agreed to Wallingford Day's request of \$2,500 for line 5911 and level fund summer recreation program salaries line 5901 at \$10,000; field trips line 5902 at \$2,000 and summer recreation expenses line 5903 at \$500.

WUV Implementation Agreement – Erosion Reduction Elfin Lake. Board members reviewed the 23-page \$60,000 WUV Implementation Grant Agreement for erosion reduction measures at Elfin Lake. By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

FY’26 Appropriations. The Board by consensus agreed to set appropriation requests as follows: 5203 VNA & Hospice \$250; 5204 Southwestern VT Council on Aging \$250; 5206 Humane Society \$300; 5207 Rutland Mental Health \$250; 5208 BROCC \$250; 5209 RSVP \$250; 5212 RAS \$750; 5213 NewStory \$250; 5214 VT Center for Independent Living \$100; 5215 VT Adult Learning \$250; 5216 VT Association for the Blind \$90; 5218 Green Up \$150; 5219 Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District \$250; 5220 Rutland Parent Child Center \$100; 5222 Irving Smith Scholarship \$1,000; 5227 ARC \$100; 5228 Preservation Trust \$100; 5231 Red Cross \$0; 5232 VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force \$100; 5233 Child First Advocacy \$100; 5235 Vermont Family Network \$100; 5237 VT Council on Rural Dev \$100; 5238 Restorative Justice \$100; 5239 NeighborWorks \$100; and 5240 Nelson Tift Scholarship \$100.

Wallingford flag expenses was set at \$250 and moved to the Town Government section of the budget.

Municipal Website. The Board by consensus agreed to spend up to \$280 on a website repair by Nathaniel Gibson, who helped build the website a decade ago. Board members agreed to revisit discussion for a complete website update at a future meeting.

Tree Planting Grant. Board members by consensus authorized R. Barker to apply for the Community Tree Planting Grant. He said he would like to replace the tree in front of Rotary and then five other locations. He’s going to discuss it with members of the Tree Committee. He said the grant was \$5,000 minimum with no local match.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. K. Luzader noted the upcoming FY’26 budget review dates:
Administration, Insurance and Revenue on January 6, 2025.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 6th Day of January in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____