

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2025

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.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Phil Baker, and Greg McCormack.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to approve the 01/06/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 01/21/25 pay order total of \$27,819.58. Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the road crew had hauled tons of sand and completed some truck repairs.

There was a discussion regarding the Certificate of Public Good issued by the state for a net metering solar array installation at the town garage. M. Tessier said the Town had a year to replace the sand shed in order to get the solar arrays installed. K. Luzader said she would remind contractor Todd Galiano to update his estimate for a new sand shed. C. Behrendt said at a Rutland Reg. Planning Commission gathering of Selectboard members, officials were cautioned about the regulations attached to federal/state grants for sand sheds that drove costs much higher. R. Barker asked about a bond vote and Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon said she would research it. Mr. Baker said the Selectboard would need to obtain estimates and figure out how to pay for it.

Certificate of Mileage. K. Luzader said the road commissioner and road foreman had reviewed the VTrans Certificate of Mileage for the Town. There were no changes from last year.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the VTrans Certificate of Highway Miles for municipal roads with no changes. Motion carried (4-0).

Public Comments. None.

Honorable Mentions. Sanford Witherell Jr for his donation to the Sugar Hill Cemetery; Mill River Interact Club for raising and donating funds to restore Boy With the Boot; Wallingford residents recycled 5,288 pounds of plastic in 2024 as part of the Trex program at the transfer station.

FY'26 Budget and Town Meeting Warning. K. Luzader noted 5114 Office Expenses under Town Government was increased \$1,000 to a total of \$15,000 due to anticipated 3-year Go Daddy email charges; 5151 Town Hall Expenses went up \$1,500 to \$21,500 to cover the cost of the required 5-year elevator weight test; 4514 Transfer station fees under Revenue was increased \$1,000 to \$41,000 in anticipated income; and line 5112 Elections and Town Meeting under Town Government was reduced by \$200 to \$1,100.

K. Luzader said the FY'26 budget would increase the amount to be raised in property taxes from FY'25 to FY'26 by just \$1,333 or .12 percent. The change in the total budget from FY'25 to FY'26 is \$39,250 or 2.63 percent. An estimated tax rate based on the 2024 Grand List is .4604 cents, compared to .4598 cents in FY'25.

By consensus, the Board agreed to add a special article to the Warning asking voters to approve the establishment of a Reserve Fund for the restoration and maintenance of the Boy With the Boot.

R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve the Town Meeting Warning. Motion carried (4-0).

Town Report Dedication. K. Luzader read the Annual Town Report dedication. By consensus, the Board approved.

Employee Handbook Updates. By consensus, the Board revisited the health insurance opt out payment decision made at the last meeting. It was noted the Employee Handbook indicated the opt out payment was \$4,000 to be paid quarterly. The Board agreed to make no changes to that section of the handbook after last month agreeing to set it at \$2,000 to be paid annually.

Board members tabled any further updates to the handbook until further review can be conducted.

Selectboard Concerns. K. Luzader said the village sidewalks were not cleared and sanded after the last storm and requested the town administrator notify the Fire District 1 clerk.

Other Business. R. Barker asked the town administrator to write a letter of acceptance to the Town's constable upon learning he would be leaving his post at the end of his term in March.

K. Luzader said language in the deed for Stone Meadow would prohibit the installation of solar arrays on the hillside.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 3rd Day of February in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____