Wallingford Selectboard

Annual Informational Meeting Minutes

Wallingford Elementary School

March 3, 2025

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Jill Stone Teer, Erika Berner, Rob Carey, Barbara Boucher, Jane Duda, and Tammy Heffernan (moderator). There were about 35 people in attendance. Only Town officials and those who addressed the Board were listed as present.

Selectboard Chair Kathy Luzader called the meeting to order at the Wallingford Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. Moderator Tammy Heffernan welcomed everyone to the annual Informational Meeting. K. Luzader introduced Board members. Ms. Heffernan asked if anyone new to Town Meeting would like to introduce themselves. There was no response.

Article I. Ms. Heffernan read Article I related to elective offices. No public input.

Article II. Ms. Heffernan read Article II related to scholarships. No public input.

Article III. Ms. Heffernan read Article III regarding property tax payments. No public input.

Article IV. Ms. Heffernan read Article IV as follows: Shall the voters of the Town of Wallingford appropriate a sum not to exceed $1,489,669 for the General Operation of the Town, with an amount not to exceed $1,081,721 to be raised in Property Taxes for fiscal year 2026?

K. Luzader said the Selectboard worked hard on the fiscal year 2026 budget to balance the needs of the community with the pocketbooks of taxpayers. She said the total municipal budget of $1,489,669 increased just $39,250 or 2.63 percent. The amount to be raised in taxes of $1,081,721 based on the current grand list would increase just $1,333 or .12 percent.

She said on page 9 of your annual Town Report were Revenue projections – the Town expected to collect $25,000 more in delinquent property taxes in the coming year, so overall revenue is up around $39,000.

She said on page 10 – the Administration budget of $580,250 was up just $25,000. The Selectboard budgeted 4 percent raises for employees. Reappraisal line 5002F was up $3,300. Various insurances on line 5025 – including unemployment, liability, health – were expected to decrease due to fewer employees receiving health insurance thru the Town.

K. Luzader said on page 11 – the Town Government budget of $189,920 was up just slightly by $4,700 mainly due to rising Office Expenses, Town Hall operating expenses such as fuel, electricity, and a required elevator 5-year weight test, along with Rutland Regional Planning Commission dues.

She said on page 12 – the Appropriations budget $84,579 was up $7,500 with Gilbert Hart Library requesting $47,000 (an increase of $5,000 from last year), and Wallingford Rescue requesting $25,000 (an increase of $1,500 from last year). Nearly all other line items were level funded.

K. Luzader said on page 13 – the Highway Budget of $434,560 dropped about $6,000. The Board added $10,000 to the paving budget on line 5325, but that was offset by reducing the excavator line 5343 from $13,000 to $1,000 now that the loan for the excavator was paid off.

She said on page 14 – the Public Safety budget of $80,500 was up $15,000 for increased police patrols from 24 to 28 hours per week. The Capital Budget of $81,500 was nearly level funded and the Recreation budget of $38,300 was up just $2,500.

Rob Carey asked about the Reserve Funds for Articles V (Wallingford Day), VI (newsletter) and VII (Boy With the Leaking Boot). K. Luzader said Reserve Funds would ensure donations earmarked for specific purposes would be used for those purposes. She said someone who donated money for Wallingford Day wanted that money to be spent on the annual event and not rolled into the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. She said Reserve Funds ensured donated funds were used for those purposes.

Barbara Boucher said there was an amount budgeted for Wallingford Day, but nothing budgeted for the newsletter. She said those involved in overseeing the annual event and monthly newsletter wanted donations to go to those sources. Jane Duda agreed and said the Reserve Funds kept donations in the intended funds.

K. Luzader announced residents would be learning later this year about plans to replace the municipal sand shed and possibly a bond vote.

ARTICLE V. Ms. Heffernan read Article V: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund through donations to be called the Wallingford Day Reserve Fund to be used only for expenses for Wallingford Day purposes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804? No public input.

ARTICLE VI. Ms. Heffernan read Article VI: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund through donations and advertisement revenue to be called the Wallingford Standard Newsletter Fund to be used for expenses associated with the monthly newsletter in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804? No public input.

ARTICLE VII. Ms. Heffernan read Article VII: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund through donations to be called the Boy With the Boot Fund to be used for expenses associated with the repair/restoration/maintenance/replication of the statue in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804? No public input.

Article VIII. Ms. Heffernan read Article VIII related to Other Business. Sarah Wicker read aloud a Resolution she would like the Selectboard to consider at the next regular Board meeting. Rob Carey asked if the Wallingford Elementary School would be holding a bake sale during elections. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer replied in the affirmative.

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 17th Day of March, 2025

WALLINGFORD SELECTBOARD

Anne Awad_____

Rob Barker_____

Carolyn Behrendt_____

Kathy Luzader _____

Glenn Mayer_____

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