

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2025

Selectboard Members Present: Anne Awad, Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, Kathy Luzader, and Glenn Mayer.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Mark Noble, Cecile Betit, Phil Baker, Michael McMahon, Joyce McMahon, Jose Padilla, and Greg McCormack from Peg-TV.

K. Luzader called the meeting to order at Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to enter Executive Session for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee as allowed under 1 V.S.A. Section 313 4(a). Motion carried (5-0). Mark Noble was invited into the closed-door meeting.

By consensus, the Board exited Executive Session at 5:25 p.m.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by Glenn Mayer to request the entire Recreation Committee attend the Monday, July 7th Selectboard meeting to review and ensure all members adhere to the Mission Statement; abide by the Open Meeting Law; discuss Recreation Committee size; and set a follow-up meeting with the Selectboard within 90 days. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

The meeting was recessed until 6:30 p.m.

K. Luzader called the regular meeting to order at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 05/19/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker was not present at the time of this vote.

Pay Orders. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 06/03/25 pay order total of \$123,293.03 after \$87,975.00 was added for the used 2020 Volvo Dump Truck. Motion carried (4-0). R. Barker was not present at the time of this vote.

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker said the road crew had been grading roads, hauling gravel and removing a tree on West Hill Road. He said repairs were made to the 2016 Kenworth.

Sand Shed Request for Proposal – Board members reviewed the Sand Shed Request for Proposal drafted by Mark Tessier with input from the road commissioner. The Board by consensus approved the document with three changes: demolish both the sand and salt sheds; pricing for a structure to be built in the 2026 construction season; no hoop buildings desired.

Tift Road – Board members heard from the road commissioner the largest landowner on Tift Road was opposed to closing or reclassifying that road. After some discussion, the Board agreed to schedule a site visit on Monday, July 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the western closure point on Tift Road and consider options for closure and/or repair. Mr. Baker agreed to prepare an estimate.

Michael McMahon suggested the road be made into one-way travel if the Board opted to repair it.

Cell Tower Request from MD7 to Renegotiate Lease. Jose Padilla of MD7 joined the meeting via telephone to discuss a renegotiation of the AT&T cell tower lease.

The Town currently receives \$1,737.35 per month for Fiscal Year 2025. After some discussion related to a cost proposal and terms, Mr. Padilla agreed to forward an amended offer for consideration.

Cecile Betit said Verizon offered boosters to customers to improve wifi and cellular service.

New Highway Department Truck. Board members reviewed Advanced Truck Group (ATG) of Westminster, VT's estimate for a 2025 Western Star cab and chassis with a Viking plow package at a cost of \$285,999 including 7-year warranties on engine, transmission and basic truck. Mr. Baker said no other company offers that kind of extended warranty and he added at the end of the seven years, the trade-in value would be much higher. G. Mayer asked if there was a down payment required. Mr. Baker said no and delivery would be in 18 to 24 months with time to secure financing.

After further discussion, the Board by consensus approved the purchase of the vehicle and authorized K. Luzader to sign the purchase agreement.

Honorable Mentions. Aldous Funeral Home for a donation to the Boy With the Boot fund; Recreation Committee, American Legion, Wallingford fire and rescue, volunteers and parade participants for the Memorial Day Parade;

Risk Assessment Telecommunication Survey – Cecile Betit. Cecile Betit provided preliminary results of a risk assessment survey, but she indicated she was still collecting responses. She said the main concern was contacting emergency responders during power outages. She said battery backup systems (similar to generators) may be one solution. She added Green Mountain Power offered battery incentives.

Public Comments. Ms. Betit said she would like to work with the Town on preserving a water Right of Way when the Town becomes the owner of 33 Weston Road as part of the VT Emergency Management's Buyout Program with FEMA.

Ms. Betit was informed FEMA had announced funding delays and there was no timeframe for moving the project forward, but the Board would consider her requests should municipal ownership of the property proceed.

Conservation Commission – Resignation, Appointment, Trex Bench and Commission Treasurer. The Board accepted with regrets longtime Conservation Commissioner Carol Macleod's resignation. The Board by consensus appointed Carolyn Sloane to the commission following the Conservation Commission's recommendation. The Board approved the commission's request to locate a new Trex bench at the Elfin Lake public beach. The Board by consensus agreed the Conservation Commission treasurer shall be a current member.

Unlicensed Dogs. By consensus, board members approved sending letters to pet owners reminding them of the civil penalty for failure to register their dogs by the state deadline of April 1.

Deadline for ARPA Projects. Board members approved Sumio Seo's June 1, 2026 deadline extension request for a South Wallingford Water Company project; approved pay orders totaling \$17,048.26 for Fire District #1's 20-year wastewater treatment plant evaluation; and heard from

Justin Jankus the cybersecurity project was important, but he said funds were likely needed for the municipal share of the School Street sidewalk project.

Capital Fund Committee. The Board by consensus appointed Robert Allen to the Capital Fund Committee along with Selectboard members Glenn Mayer and Carolyn Behrendt. The Board agreed it would be a five-member committee with two vacancies to be filled.

Agenda Building. A. Awad said she would like an item to be added to the July or August agenda naming Selectboard members as liaisons to municipal committees.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. K. Luzader announced F.A.S. Landscaping's mowing fees for 2025.

C. Behrendt made a made that was seconded by R. Barker to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 16th Day of June in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad_____

Rob Barker_____

Carolyn Behrendt_____

Kathy Luzader_____

Glenn Mayer_____