

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2025

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

**Others Present:** Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Phil Baker, Erika Berner, Naomi Bombardi-Wilson, Steve Lanfear, Jason Gaboury, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

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

**Agenda Amendments.** By consensus, the Board added to the agenda an Executive Session for a personnel matter and a request from Wendy Savery of Gilbert Hart Library to use the Town's bulk mail permit.

**Minutes.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 10/06/25 meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0). K. Luzader abstained since she was not at that meeting.

**Pay Orders.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 11/04/25 pay order total of \$1,847,450.57 (including \$1,808,059.59 to the Mill River School District for first half education taxes). Motion carried.

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker said Tifft Road would likely be open for vehicular traffic by the end of the week. He said the Highway Department completed ditching projects on Tifft Road and Sugar Hill Road. He said most of the winter sand had been hauled and stored for the coming months.

R. Barker asked if there had been any progress on the town garage solar project. Road Foreman Steve Lanfear said no. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding replacement of the sand/salt sheds. G. Mayer said he had visited several municipalities and discussed sand/salt shed options with highway department personnel. He said a 60X100 structure with a paved floor was recently completed in Castleton for about \$385,000. He said many towns cover salt but not sand. G. Mayer noted there were many options under \$500,000. Mr. Lanfear said the Town needed a good sized structure with divided sand and salt storage. Mr. Baker said allowances had to be made for the structure in the floodplain. It was agreed Mr. Baker and/or G. Mayer would contact multiple contractors (including the Castleton contractor) to obtain estimates for basic structures (including pole barn style).

K. Luzader shared the contents of an email sent to the Town by Dustin Cummings, a Centerville Road resident concerned about a neighbor's property, including trees clear cut, driveway issues, and projects that he claimed blocked the road. Mr. Baker said 492 Centerville Road was meticulous and he would address the Driveway Permit with the landowner. He said a forester was involved in the tree cutting operations and he added there was not much to be done about the impact on snow drifts in the road. He said he would advise the road crew to check that area more frequently. He noted the road crew had not experienced excessive drifts last winter after the trees were cut. He added other roads including Maranville had larger and more frequent snow drifts.

R. Barker said it was a mistake to think roads were always open and clear in the winter. Mr. Baker said there were 52 miles of road in Wallingford and 40 miles of those were gravel roads.

**Honorable Mentions.** Conservation Commission members for hosting a stick season spruce up in the village and for volunteering to water new plantings at the Elfin Lake public beach as part of the erosion reduction project; Bruce and Maureen Duchesne for boarding up the Elfin Lake concession stand for the winter.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Boy With the Boot 3D Replica Presentation – Guest Northeast 3D’s Jason Gaboury.** Jason Gaboury presented an overview of the 3D replication process for the Boy With the Boot statue. He said 99 percent of the work would be done in-house. He said scanning would take place on site. The finished product would weigh about 65 pounds with a water feature. He said it was durable enough to remain outside year-round. The cost – including painting – would be under \$10,000. It would take four to six months to complete, he said.

Board members thanked Mr. Gaboury for his presentation.

**Salt Shed Bids.** Board members reviewed bids received in response to the Sand Shed Replacement Request for Proposal:

*Naylor & Breen \$1,172,222*

*Galiano Construction \$897,114.42.*

*Breadloaf \$840,000.*

The Board by consensus agreed to take no action until Mr. Mayer and Mr. Baker obtained additional estimates from the Castleton salt shed contractor and another pole barn contractor on a more basic structure.

**Quarterly Financials.** Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone Teer presented an overview of Fiscal Year 2026 first quarter financials.

**Telecommunication Tower in East Wallingford.** Board members reviewed a 60-day advance notice from Vermont Towers LLC for the construction of a 140’ lattice communication tower on the Seward property in East Wallingford. Zoning Administrator Erika Berner said the applicant had not filed a petition for approval with the Public Utility Commission to construct the tower at this point. She said Rutland Regional Planning Commission would review the proposal after the application was filed.

Ms. Berner recommended once the application was filed, the Selectboard could hold a public hearing and invite the applicant to provide an overview of the project in order to give citizens the opportunity to respond. Ms. Berner further suggested the Board request the applicant conduct a balloon test.

Naomi Bombardi-Wilson asked if the Town received any revenue from this project. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said “no” but the Town did receive income from the Town Hall cell tower. Ms. Bombardi-Wilson shared health concerns related to telecommunication towers and the Town’s potential liability. She agreed to send board members information gathered from the Environmental Health Trust.

**Veteran's Memorial Park Use Request.** R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve Grey Wicker's request to use Veteran's Memorial Park for a gathering on November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor veterans for their service to the country. Motion carried (5-0). It was agreed no demonstrations, political signs or messages would be permitted.

**School Street Sidewalk Project:** The Board reviewed VHB Engineers Amendment 1 to the agreement with the Town for the School Street sidewalk project. The amendment totaling \$4,897 was related to Right of Way work not included in the original agreement. By consensus, the Board authorized K. Luzader to sign Amendment 1.

By consensus, the Board approved a Relocation Adjustment Order drafted by VTrans related to utility poles within the Right of Way of the School Street sidewalk project.

**Employee Handbook Update – Minimum Age Requirement.** By consensus, the Board approved amending the Employee Handbook on page 6 to set the minimum age for municipal employment at 16 years old (excluding Highway Department employees).

**Agenda Building.** None.

**Selectboard Concerns.** A. Awad requested the Selectboard's liaison to the Gilbert Hart Library Board of Trustees – Todd Galiano – attend the December 15<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.

G. Mayer presented property, bridge, and vehicle inventories to the Board and road commissioner as part of a Capital funding plan for replacement/repairs.

C. Behrendt said there was a lack of police presence in Town for Halloween.

**Gilbert Hart Library Bulk Mail Permit Request.** By consensus, the Board approved the library's request to use the Town's bulk mail permit to distribute a fundraising letter.

**Other Business.** None.

**Executive Session.** A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to enter executive session at 8:13 p.m. for a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(4) with Road Commissioner Phil Baker and the town administrator. Motion carried (5-0). A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to exit at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried (5-0). No action was taken.

A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 17th Day of November in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Glenn Mayer \_\_\_\_\_