

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2025

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

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, Sandra Hochberg, Sheriff David Fox, Sgt. Andrew Cross, Jeff Duchesne (via telephone), 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 deleted Maranville Road brush cutting as Ralph Corbo contacted the town administrator and indicated the matter was resolved.

Minutes. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 11/17/25 meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 12/02/25 pay order total of \$60,583.66. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

Honorable Mentions. Don Emery and Craig Niedzwicki for their extraordinary efforts identifying and cataloging gravesites at the Green Hill Cemetery; VTel for their sizable donation to the Town Hall food shelf.

Public Comments. None.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Public Safety. Sheriff David Fox told board members the Rutland County Sheriff contract that runs through June 30th is 28 hours per week at \$54.07/hr for 1456 hours capped at \$78,725. He said there would be a 5 percent increase starting July 1, 2026. He explained there was capacity for additional hours and he along with Sgt. Andrew Cross detailed a cooperative arrangement with Clarendon for the benefit of both towns.

C. Behrendt said the Board had increased weekly patrols each year to eventually return to the 40 hours per week coverage. After further discussion, K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to increase patrols to 30 hours per week for FY' 27. Motion carried (5-0). Sgt. Cross said he would meet with Clarendon officials to discuss a cooperative arrangement similar to Proctor and West Rutland.

Board members set the following Public Safety line items: 5402 First Constable Stipend at \$250; 5406 Special Police Officer at \$89,000 (30 hours per week); 5408 Animal Control Officer Stipend \$1,250; and 5410 Animal Control Officer Expense at \$75.

Town Hall Clock. Jeff Duchesne joined the meeting via telephone to discuss replacing the Town Hall clock motor at an estimated \$5,173. He said he tried to source parts for the old motor that halted production in the 1970s. K. Luzader said due to the cost the Town's Purchasing Policy required multiple bids. A. Awad said she appreciated the time and effort Mr. Duchesne put into the clock.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Town Government. Board members set the following line items for Town Government:

Line 5112 – Elections and Town Meeting – \$4,500 (three elections); 5113 - Town Report \$3,300; 5114 – Office Expenses \$15,000 (paper, pens, supplies, ink cartridges, copier expenses, Quickbook yearly subscription, Monthly Record Room costs, dog tags & licenses); 5114a – Delinquent Tax Collector Office Expense – \$0; 5115 – Legal Expenses \$3,000; 5116 – Planning & Zoning Notices \$500; 5117 – Ads & Warnings \$1,200; 5118 – Seminars/Meetings \$1,000; 5122 – Records Restoration – \$4,000.(offset by revenue line 4518); 5123 – Memorial Day Expenses \$3 00 (flags for Green Hill Cemetery); 5125 - VLCT Dues \$4,234; 5126 – RRPC dues \$2,130; 5130 – Workplace Safety \$250; 5133 – Dog License Fees to State of VT \$3,500; 5134 – Civil Marriage License Fees to State of VT \$780; 5135 - Wallingford Flags \$250; 5150 - Transfer Station \$100,000; 5151 – Town Hall Operating Costs \$22,000; 5153 – Cemeteries \$0; 5155 - Rutland County Tax (judiciary expenses) \$20,000; 5157 – Conservation Commission \$2,500; 5158 Energy Committee \$500; 5160 - Communications Group (newsletter) \$5,500 (offset by Revenue line 4553).

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Capital. G. Mayer presented an overview of a 5-year Highway Funding Plan along with a Capital Improvement Plan budget to include replacement of the sand shed, purchase of a dump truck, and replacement of the backhoe/loader. The plan detailed boosting the Highway Reserve fund annually from \$20,000 to \$120,000 and securing bank loans with annual debt service ranging from \$28,140 to \$65,064 over the next five years. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said the state's Municipal Equipment Fund for highway department purchases would feature low interest rates in the 2 to 3 percent range.

C. Behrendt said she would like to see staggered reserve fund increases to lessen the burden on taxpayers. K. Luzader indicated the state just announced double digit education tax rate increases for the next year. G. Mayer said he would seek more information on the loans, including the Municipal Equipment Fund and revisit the Capital budget at an upcoming meeting. K. Luzader thanked G. Mayer and A. Awad for their work on Capital Planning.

Employee Gift Certificates. The Board by consensus approved \$75 grocery store gift certificates for employees.

Boy With the Boot 3D Replica Agreement – Northeast LLC 3D. Board members by consensus authorized K. Luzader to sign an agreement between the Town and Northeast LLC 3D for the Boy With the Boot 3D replica.

Bridge 15 in East Wallingford – Schedule a Public Hearing for Scoping Report. The Board set a public hearing date at Town Hall for the second Selectboard meeting in January (6:30 p.m. on Jan. 20th) to review a state Scoping Report on Bridge 15 in East Wallingford with VTrans official Laura Stone.

Sandra Hochberg asked about a pedestrian bridge at that location and who would maintain Village Street. K. Luzader said those topics would be discussed at the public hearing.

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Concerns.

Other Business. Board members agreed to request a public hearing on January 20th at Town Hall to review a proposal for a telecommunication tower in East Wallingford on the Seward property.

A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 15th^t Day of December in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Anne Awad_____

Rob Barker_____

Carolyn Behrendt_____

Kathy Luzader_____

Glenn Mayer_____