

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

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

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

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, and Greg McCormack from Peg TV.

Agenda Amendments. Add by consensus review of the Delinquent Tax Collector submission for the annual Town Report.

Minutes. G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 12/15/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

Pay Orders. R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 01/06/26 pay order total of \$152,911.73. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. None.

G. Meyer said two recent bids – Whitetail Construction and Bud Carpenter – were received in addition to a prior bid from Green Mt. Welding for replacement of the sand shed. Bids ranged from a low of \$125,000 from Whitetail Construction to a high of \$250,000 from Bud Carpenter. He said he would analyze the proposals with Road Commissioner Phil Baker and report back to the Board.

It was agreed a special meeting may be scheduled to take action on a Town Meeting Warning special article related to this topic.

Public Comments. None.

Honorable Mentions. The Road Crew for keep the Wallingford roads plowed, sanded and safe in some difficult weather.

Muralist – Lopi LaRoe. Lopi LaRoe did not attend the meeting.

FY'27 Budget - Revenue. Board members set the following Revenue line items: 4503 ordinance fines \$8,000; 4505 office rent (Fire District 1 office) \$4,000; 4513 zoning permits \$2,500, 4514 transfer station fees \$32,000, 4515 Scrap metal recycling \$2,000; 4545 Summer Rec \$7,500; 4547 Elfin Lake Gate \$6,500; 4548 Elfin Lake Concessions \$3,000.

FY'27 Budget – Administration. Board members reviewed a worksheet of current salaries with projected increases. After some discussion, the Board agreed on 3 percent increases for employees (except concession workers who receive minimum wage). They set stipends as follows: line 5000 Auditor stipends \$300; 5001 Selectboard stipends \$7,600; 5002A Assessor Clerk Salary \$1,500; 5002B Assessor Expenses \$7,725; 5010 Road Commissioner Stipend \$2,500; 5011 Tree warden stipend \$250; 5027 Grant expenses at \$68,670 (\$1,320 for the Municipal Planning Grant local match for LHMP update; and \$67,350 for School Street sidewalk supplemental funding local match). Board members agreed the total sidewalk local match of \$212,100 would include \$108,750 in dedicated Asset (formerly ARPA) funds and another \$36,000

from unspent Asset Funds leaving a balance of \$67,350. They agreed a possible \$19,000 federal tax credit from the town garage solar project (another Asset Fund project) could not be relied upon for this local match.

FY'27 Budget – Insurance. Board members reviewed a worksheet of anticipated municipal insurance expenses, including health, dental, liability, workers compensation, unemployment etc. They set line 5027 Insurance at \$113,200.

Special Town Meeting Article – Sand Shed Replacement. G. Meyer requested the special article being considered for the Town Meeting ballot include language related to securing a bank loan (amount and repayment terms) to partially fund the replacement of the Town's sand shed. Board members agreed to call a special meeting for this subject once bid proposals were analyzed by G. Meyer and the road commissioner.

Selectboard Report and Dedication. Board members approved the Selectboard Report for the annual Town Report with minor amendments. They also approved the annual Town Report dedication. G. Meyer and A. Awad thanked the town administrator for her work on both documents.

January Selectboard Meeting Schedule. The Board agreed to hold the second meeting in January on **Tuesday, Jan. 20th** due to the Monday holiday. It was noted two public hearings were scheduled during that meeting and both would be held on the second floor of Town Hall starting with the Scoping Report for Bridge 15 at 6:30 and the telecommunication tower proposed for East Wallingford at 7:30. The regular Board meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the main floor of Town Hall.

Delinquent Tax Collector Report. By consensus, the Board approved the Delinquent Tax Collector submission for the annual Town Report as written.

E-waste Recycling Contract Extension. The Board by consensus approved a six-month extension to an agreement with National Center for Electronic Recycling (NCER) for the collection of both covered electronics (computers, televisions, printers, tablets etc) and non-covered electronics (VCRs, stereos, cell phones etc).

Agenda Building. None.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. There was a brief discussion regarding halting fuel oil deliveries at Town Hall now that second floor heat pumps were installed. Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone Teer agreed to track oil consumption rather than halt deliveries. She said Town Hall employees were trying to follow Energy Committee recommendations for heat pump and furnace settings.

K. Luzader noted new legislation passed last summer expanded the Selectboard's authority relative to surplus funds, essentially allowing the Board to use the funds for municipal purposes or to create a sort of rainy-day fund without voter approval.

G. Meyer made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 20th Day of January in the year 2025:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____