

## Wallingford Selectboard

### Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

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

**Others Present:** Sandi Switzer, Jill Stone Teer, David Cornwell, Heather Johnson, Kristin Cassidy, Eric Davenport, Steve Lanfear, Richard Gallo, Elizabeth Gallo, 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 Climate Action Office Pilot Program to the agenda.

**Minutes.** G. Mayer made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve the 12/01/25 meeting Minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

**Pay Orders.** A. Awad made a motion that was seconded by G. Mayer to approve the 12/16/25 pay order total of \$39,403.79. Motion carried (5-0).

**Road Commissioner Report.** Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the Volvo would need new tires at an estimated \$3,983. He asked to use funds from line 5336 (2014 Kenworth) since the Town had traded in that vehicle. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Mr. Baker said earlier in the evening he spoke with a VTrans employee about working with the Town to clear the state's Route 7 and School Street intersection following snowstorms. He said Fire District #1 needed to clear the sidewalks. K. Luzader requested the Town contact FD#1 about sanding sidewalks after storms.

Mr. Baker reminded residents there is a parking ban on Town and state roads in the winter. He said the VTrans employee said parked vehicles along Route 7 made snow removal difficult.

Mr. Baker said a Green Hill Lane resident complained about snow removal from the cul de sac after storms. He said he inspected the area after the road crew plowed following a recent storm and thought it only needed sanding.

**Honorable Mentions.** Karen Smith for her work on the Town Hall food shelf; the Conservation Commission for packaging the Stone Meadow honey with tags in memory of Jane Quigley for sale at Town Hall.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Gilbert Hart Library.** Library Trustees Chair Kristin Cassidy presented a budget and \$52,000 Town funding request along with an overview of library activities and upcoming events. She said Trustees were asking for a \$5,000 increase in Fiscal Year 2027 from \$47,000 to \$52,000. A. Awad said that was a 10 percent increase from last year and the Board could not approve that level of increase for every section of the budget. A. Awad asked if Todd Galiano had resigned his position as the Town's designee to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cassidy confirmed he had left. A. Awad said the protocol was for Trustees to notify the

Selectboard of the vacancy and then Trustees and the Board would work together to fill the Town designee seat. She said ideally the designee would be an active member of the library's Board of Trustees and improve the lines of communication between the Library and Selectboard.

After further discussion, R. Barker made a motion to approve the library's \$52,000 funding request. G. Mayer seconded the motion for discussion. K. Luzader said the library's request was \$40,000 for FY'24, \$42,000 for FY'25 and \$47,000 for FY'26. She suggested amending the FY'27 request to \$49,500. The motion to approve the \$52,000 request was called to a vote. Motion was defeated (1-4) with R. Barker voting in the minority.

K. Luzader made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve a \$2,500 increase for a total of \$49,500. Motion carried (4-1). R. Barker voted in the minority.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Wallingford Rescue.** Eric Davenport requested level funding of \$25,000 for Wallingford Rescue (\$15,000 for the general budget and \$10,000 for the vehicle replacement fund). After a brief discussion, R. Barker made a motion that was seconded by A. Awad to approve Wallingford Rescue's \$25,000 request. Motion carried (5-0).

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Highway.** Following recommendations by the road commissioner and Road Foreman Steve Lanfear, the Board set Highway Department line items as follows: 5301 Town Garage Operating Expenses at \$15,400; 5302 Equipment Misc. at \$3,000; 5308 2011 Caterpillar Backhoe \$3,000; 5310 Sanders/plows at \$2,000; 5314 Hired Equipment at \$10,000; 5315 Diesel Fuel at \$34,375; 5316 Gasoline at \$1,200; 5317 Tree Service/Landscaping at \$3,250; 5318 Winter Sand \$35,000; 5319 Winter Salt \$45,000; 5320 Chloride \$975; 5321 Culverts \$9,000; 5322 Oil and Grease \$2,500; 5323 Gravel \$125,000; 5324 Blades, Chains, Shoes \$2,500; 5325 Paving \$100,000; 5327 Traffic Control Devices \$500; 5328 Road Crew Clothing Stipend \$1,500; 5332 Special Projects \$3,500 (to include storm drain cleaning); 5336 2014 Kenworth \$0; 5337 2016 Kenworth \$10,000; 5338 2006 Chevrolet Truck \$500; 5339 Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) \$1,590; 5340 2108 Dodge Ram \$2,000; 5342 Milton CAT Loader \$1,000; 5343 2020 Milton CAT Excavator \$1,000; 5346 Milton CAT Grader (3 of 5 payments plus maintenance) \$25,000; 5349 Volvo \$6,500.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Recreation.** Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said Summer Recreation Program Director Lawrie Roundy was unable to attend but requested the summer program line items 5901 Salaries \$10,000, 5902 field trips \$2,000 and 5903 supplies \$500 be level funded. She said Ms. Roundy requested lines 5902 and 5903 be combined. Recreation Committee Chair David Cornwell agreed with the recommendations and indicated combining the two line items provided flexibility in spending.

Board members followed Mr. Cornwell's recommendations as follows: Elfin Lake salaries line 5801 \$10,000; 5803 Telephone at \$300; 5804 Electric at \$1,100; 5805 Maintenance – Lake & Rec Fields at \$12,400 (includes repairs/resurface tennis court); 5806 Portable Restroom at \$2,000; 5808 Lake Supplies at \$500; 5810 Lake Concessions at \$1,400; 5812 Mowing at \$3,000; 5814 Youth Sports \$500; 5817 Recreation Programs \$500.

It was noted line 5805 maintenance lake and recreation fields included needed repairs and resurfacing for the tennis/pickleball court. That line item would return to a \$4,000 amount in future budgets.

Wallingford Day Co Chair Heather Johnson requested \$3,500 for the annual celebration, an increase of \$1,000 from last year's \$2,500. After a brief discussion, the Board approved \$3,500 for line 5910 in the Recreation budget.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Appropriations.** The Board by consensus agreed on the following appropriation requests: 5203 VNA & Hospice \$250; 5204 Southwestern VT Council on Aging \$250; 5206 Humane Society \$100; 5207 Rutland Mental Health \$250; 5208 BROCC \$250; 5209 RSVP \$250; 5212 RAS \$750; 5213 NewStory \$250; 5214 VT Center for Independent Living \$100; 5215 VT Adult Learning \$250; 5216 VT Association for the Blind \$100; 5218 Green Up Vermont \$150; 5219 Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District \$250; 5220 Rutland Parent Child Center \$100; 5222 Irving Smith Scholarship \$1,000; 5227 ARC \$100; 5228 Preservation Trust \$100; 5231 Red Cross \$0; 5232 VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force \$100; 5233 Child First Advocacy \$100; 5235 Vermont Family Network \$100; 5237 VT Council on Rural Dev \$100; 5238 Restorative Justice \$100; 5239 Cornerstone Housing \$100; and 5240 Nelson Tift Scholarship \$100. New organization Prevent Child Abuse Vermont's request of \$1,000 was reduced to \$100.

**Special Town Meeting Article – Sand Shed.** Board members agreed any special Town Meeting Warning article related to the sand shed would be financed by a bank loan rather than bond as the attorney and auditing expenses of a bond would offset the higher interest of a bank loan. G. Mayer said the bank loan had greater flexibility and fewer requirements than a bond. Board members agreed to work on article language at their next meeting.

**Climate Action Office Pilot Program.** Board members reviewed materials related to the state's new Climate Action Office Pilot Program and agreed Energy Committee Chair Tom Fort may pursue participation in the program as long as he oversees it on behalf of the Town and there is no local financial obligation.

**Agenda Building.** None.

**Selectboard Concerns.** G. Mayer said the Energy Committee would like to halt oil deliveries to Town Hall now that heat pumps have been installed on both floors. Town Clerk and Treasurer Jill Stone Teer said she would be meeting with Energy members Wednesday for discussions. G. Mayer said the Energy Committee will monitor the need for an awning for the newly installed heat pump compressor.

**Other Business.** None.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 5th Day of January in the year 2026:

Wallingford Selectboard

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

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

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

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

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