

Wallingford Selectboard

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2024

Public Hearing for School Street Sidewalk Project at 5:30 p.m.

Present. Selectboard Vice Chair Mark Tessier, Town Administrator Sandi Switzer, RRPC's Steffanie Bourque, VHB's Branden Roberts, Maria French.

Branden Roberts provided a 45-minute overview of the School Street sidewalk project with visuals depicted on a large monitor. He responded to questions from Maria French, Sandi Switzer and Mark Tessier regarding driveway impacts, utility pole relocations, traffic calming devices, and timeframe. The timeframe included final plans due May 2025, contract plans August 2025 and construction the summer of 2026. The 2024 cost of construction is \$660,817.38 with an anticipated 5 percent increase per year until construction is completed.

Selectboard Vice Chair Mark Tessier called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Rob Barker, Carolyn Behrendt, Justin Jankus, and Mark Tessier. Kathy Luzader did not attend.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Julie Sharon, Arthur Nemeth, Samantha McPhail and Victoria Medor.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 06/15/24 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

Pay Orders. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to approve the 07/16/24 pay order total of \$68,571.31. Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to approve the 06/30/24 pay order total of \$31,377.63. Motion carried (4-0).

J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to transfer ARPA funds totaling \$385,403.11 to Wallingford Asset fund (as approved by voters last March). Motion carried (4-0).

Road Commissioner's Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker reported the 2016 Kenworth needed new brakes (\$2,500 to \$5,000) and he recommended the mechanic from Earl's Trucking install airlines and other equipment (\$1,500 to \$2,000) so the vehicle could pull the excavator trailer. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Mr. Baker said a number of residents asked him about roadside mowing on Church, Creek Road and Route 140W. By consensus, the Board agreed to hire Phil Baker and Sons for roadside mowing at \$125/hour.

Public Comments. Victoria Medor asked why the river behind the properties on River Street was not dredged to prevent future flood damage in the area. M. Tessier said the state was responsible for the rivers and he thought they should be cleaned out and put back to original depths. Mr. Baker

said FEMA offered \$75,000 in mitigation funds to the Town for debris removal. He noted real costs would have been \$500,000 and then the Town would have been responsible for maintenance over the next decade. After a lengthy discussion, M. Tessier urged Ms. Medor to contact legislators with her concerns.

True Temper – Proposed Second Shift. True Temper Plant Manager Arthur Nemeth said the company was considering establishing a second shift from either 2:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. to midnight. He said equipment to be used during the shift including the debarker was mostly enclosed (but not inside the facility). He provided the Board with a sketch featuring decibel readings at various workstations around the Creek Road property. For example, he said readings indicated 60 to 70 decibels around the perimeter of the property, 83 decibels by the blower, and 76 to 90 decibels at the debarker. Mr. Baker said he worked at True Temper in the late 1970s on a second shift. Mr. Nemeth noted at one point in the past there were three shifts. J. Jankus and C. Behrendt said they had no concern with possible violation of the municipal Noise Ordinance given the reported decibel levels.

By consensus, the Board agreed to support a second shift at True Temper.

Restorative Justice. Samantha McPhail representing Restorative Justice outlined a program at no cost to the Town that would offer community service to six individuals issued No Trespass Orders for an incident at Elfin Lake earlier this summer. The voluntary program would require parental/guardian approval and specific tasks be satisfactorily completed in order for the No Trespass Orders to be lifted, she said. After some discussion, the Board determined six hours of community service work per individual was appropriate with monitors overseeing the chores. Board members agreed to move forward with the program. Ms. McPhail indicated she would forward the paperwork to the town administrator to send to the six individuals in order to find out who was interested in participating.

By consensus, the Board authorized Restorative Justice to facilitate this program.

Grader Loan Refinancing. J. Justin made a motion that was seconded by C. Behrendt to authorize Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon to refinance the grader loan in the amount of \$110,000 through the state equipment fund program at 2 percent interest over a 5-year period. Motion carried (4-0).

Heating and Cooling Systems at Town Hall. There were no bids on the Town Hall boiler replacement project. M. Tessier said he heard the Scope of Work outlined by the engineer (hired at the recommendation of Energy Committee members) was too elaborate and discouraged bidding.

Tom Fort said he had met with Fire District #1 Prudential Committee members regarding the Town Hall siren 3-phase service. He said they agreed in principle to the Town taking over the system, which would enable 3-phase service for heat pumps at substantial savings. He noted one contractor attended the site visit for the heat pump Request for Proposal. Town Administrator Sandi Switzer asked whether contractors could eliminate that added cost to their bids if the Town took over the 3-phase service. Mr. Fort agreed and noted an addendum could be added to the RFP with that information. R. Barker expressed concern about no bids for the boiler replacement. Mr. Fort said heat pumps were the most efficient primary heating and cooling sources and may extend the life of the boiler. He added the Town could always issue a revised, scaled down Request for Proposal next year for boiler replacement next year.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to an addendum noting contractors did not have to include the 3-phase installation as part of their heat pump bids. By consensus, the Board agreed to move ahead with taking over the siren from the fire district. Mr. Fort noted a surge protector should be purchased.

The Board tabled action on the boiler replacement until heat pump bids were received.

Portable Restrooms for Elfin Lake Public Beach. By consensus, the Board agreed to install a portable restroom at the Elfin Lake public beach during the first two weeks of summer camp in August at Lawrie Roundy's request.

Wallingford Day Request. By consensus, the Board agreed Town Hall could remain open until 4 p.m. on July 20th if someone from the Wallingford Day committee was present in the building.

Selectboard Concerns. None.

Other Business. None.

Executive Session. J. Jankus made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to enter Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Motion carried (4-0).

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Barker to exit Executive Session at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried (4-0). No action taken.

M. Tessier asked the Town Administrator to advise the Rutland County Sheriff Department that an individual was driving a Kubota on Town roads in the vicinity of Elfin Lake public beach.

C. Behrendt made a motion that was seconded by J. Jankus to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried (4-0).

Submitted By: Sandi Switzer/Town Administrator

APPROVED THIS 5th Day of August in the year 2024:

Wallingford Selectboard

Carolyn Behrendt _____

Rob Barker _____

Justin Jankus _____

Kathy Luzader _____

Mark Tessier _____