

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

January 8, 2015

Wolcott Town Office
6:00 p.m.

Board Members: *Belinda Clegg, Richard Lee, Todd Harris, Jeff Wright*
Town Employee: *Bernard Earle*
Public: *Rick Furing*
Reporter: *Taylor Mollouer*
Correspondent: *Val Mason*

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Listers Change To Grand List Letter**
- **Orders To Be Signed**

Rick Fearling – Transfer Station Solar Panel: Rick Fearling approached the Board with an explanation of the ongoing problem that the Transfer Station is having with their cash register. Rick completed a walkthrough of the Station's existing power supply. He then went on to give the Board an estimate to replace the existing solar panel with a larger one, a new inverter and a deep cycle marine battery. He informed the Board that his estimate of \$1800 came after researching several different companies and brands, although he stated that quality of the materials is very important. Rick did let the Board know that there is another contractor who they could contact for another estimate, Nathan Skorstad. Discussion. The Board informed Rick that they need this work to be done as soon as possible. Rick stated that he will get back to Belinda after speaking with Nathan. Belinda made the motion to approve up to \$1800 to replace the existing solar panel, a new inverter, a new battery and labor. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Finalize and approve the Transfer Station budget: Belinda handed out copies of the proposed budget – anticipated revenue and expense. Discussion. Todd questioned the new covers that are needed for the containers. Belinda stated that they will discuss the covers at the next meeting due to the \$1800 that is necessary for the Transfer Station to function properly. When asked by Todd if anything is needed at the Station, Richard said that the covers are urgent and that one or more of the posts need to be replaced to hold the chain. Todd made the motion to accept the proposed Transfer Station budget. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Community: None

Approve the minutes of December 17, 2014: Belinda made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Town Hall Permits – three:** Billy Jo Tallman for February 8, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. No alcohol. Christy Jones for January 10, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. No alcohol and Nicolette Leriche on February 22, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. No

alcohol. Todd made the motion to accept all three permits. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Certified equalized education property value:** The Selectboard received the annual results of the 2014 equalization study for Wolcott. The equalized education property value for the town fell from 109% to 102.5%. The ideal is 100%. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is the measure of uniformity of appraisal of property on the grand list. It changed from 17.05% last year to 7.44% this year. 10% or lower is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments.
- **Ground Water/Well Sampling Results:** Ross Environmental Associates sent the results of the ground-water and supply well sampling results for November 2014 at the closed land fill. They pointed out that heightened level of magnesium at the landfill and a slightly high iron count in one of the two resident's wells. Discussion.
- **HRRR Projects – delayed:** Rob Moore of LCPC sent an email letting the board know the High Risk Rural Roads grants are on hold until 2016. The town was approved for replacement of signage on the North Wolcott Road. The original date of the project was to be completed by the end of 2015. Discussion.

New Business:

- **Comments on Animal Control Ordinance Draft:** Belinda shared her overview with the Board of the draft that was received from the Hyde Park Selectboard. This would replace Wolcott's existing Ordinance to make Wolcott, Hyde Park and Johnson's ordinances a commonality. Belinda asked the Board to read the draft and make any changes if necessary before the next meeting as Hyde Park's Board is requesting comments and/or editing by February 1, 2015. Discussion which included Bernard. A decision will be made at the next meeting.
- **Appropriation Policy:** Discussion. Tabled until the next meeting.
- **Work on Town Meeting Warning:** The Board reviewed the draft for the Warning of the Annual Town Meeting and discussed a note from Linda asking the Board for their thoughts, ideas and or questions to either include or not include regarding what she had proposed for the Warning, Town Report, Selectboard Budget and possibly a Pre-Town Meeting. Jeff suggested that instead of having a separate meeting that the Board present the budget at the beginning of town meeting and state that the Board is pleased with the budget, that it is two cents lower and inform the tax payers of the \$55,000 surplus. He also suggested that in parenthesis put in Article 5 and Article 9 an increase of two percent. Discussion which included Belinda's information that she had for an office equipment fund along with other items that she had completed including the School Street Water System. Todd informed the Board that he had completed the Town Road Report and the Board agreed that this should be placed in the Town Report. Discussion on whether or not to include unlicensed dogs in the Town Report. Belinda proposed that it be put in the survey that she is forming. The Board agreed. Discussed the survey at length that the Board will be handing out to the voters at Town Meeting as well as at the Town Clerk's office and the possible results of the survey.

Old Business:

- **Finalize Selectboard Budget:** Todd made the motion to authorize the two percent raise for town employees that was included in the budget. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jeff made the motion to accept the Selectboard budget as presented. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board will sign at the next meeting.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Orders signed:** The Board signed all orders.
- **Error and Omission Request:** The Listers sent a letter of request asking for changes to the grand list. They have received grievance requests from Don and Colleen Putvain regarding their two properties. These grievances were received in December, but the legal warning to appeal was May 15, 2014. With the use of their new maps, the Listers state that the sand pit parcel shows that most of it is located on the former William Taylor property and it was brought to their attention that no sand had been removed for several years and the State Land Use Permit had expired. The Listers are asking permission to correct the error and reduce the value from \$78,900 to \$60,500 on the 2014 Grand List for this property. The Listers also provided the Board with a letter from the Putvain's regarding this property along with itemized property costs. The Putvain's are also asking for an error and omission on their other property where they reside. Discussion. Richard made the motion to grant permission to the Listers to correct the error on the Baldwin Brook Road property only. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Todd discussed the Highway Department and the mechanical problems that they are having with one of the trucks and that he and Skip are pricing a tandem.

Belinda made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

(Regularly scheduled meeting on January 7th postponed until January 8th due to lack of a quorum)

*Next Selectboard Meeting
January 21, 2015*