

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

## October 15, 2014

Wolcott Town Office  
6:00 p.m.

Board Members: *Belinda Clegg, Bessie Martin, Todd Harris, Jeff Wright, Richard Lee*

Public: *Greg Williams, Arlo Sterner, Harvey Reed, Cornelius Reed*

Lamoille County Sherriff's Department: *Sherriff Roger Marcoux, Captain Eben Merrill, Senior Sargent Deputy Chris Watson, Sargent Kevin LaPlante, Service Deputy John Ross, Deputy Ferron Wambolb*

Reporter: *None*

Correspondent: *Val Mason*

Belinda Clegg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Amendments to the Agenda:**

- Adopt Resolution – Use of Union Bank ACH System

Jeff Wright asked for the meeting to go into executive session at 6:02 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:05 p.m. No action was taken.

### **Comments From The Community:**

None

**Lamoille Count Sherriff's Department:** Belinda thanked the Department for their Monthly Report and explained that the Board asked for them to attend tonight's meeting because the Board is starting budget hearings, tax payer's complaints of high taxes and the incident with the directive for Gulf Road. Bessie asked Roger to give the formula in writing for how the Department divides the amount paid from each town that they provide coverage for. Roger explained that it is part Patrol of the three towns (Wolcott, Hyde Park and Johnson) and part Communications, of which Wolcott is one of ten towns. Roger invited her to attend an upcoming meeting in which these areas will be covered. After this meeting he will get that information to her. Roger informed the Board of the recent changes in the Department to include two Sargents, which will provide a Supervisor for both the Day Shift and Night Shift. He took the opportunity to introduce each officer that was in attendance at the meeting and their positions. The Officers in attendance were: Captain Eben Merrill who is second in command, Senior Sargent Chris Watson, Sargent Kevin LaPlante, Deputy John Ross who will soon be the new Youth Service Deputy, Deputy, Deputy Ferron Wambolb . The three officers who could not attend tonight's meeting are Deputy Victor Bitka, Deputy Corey Davis, and Peter Wughes who is attending the Police Academy and will graduate in November. He has a degree in Criminal Justice. Roger

explained that they are looking for a detective. Roger let the Board know that he wants good communication between the Supervisors and the Board. Roger stated that he could attend a Board Meeting every once in a while. Roger gave an overview of the Department. Roger informed the Board that he and the Department did research how to enforce overweight vehicles that use the Gulf Road Bridge. They found that they cannot enforce this because it is not in their training and they are not able to go by the GPW information on the Registration because it has to be backed by the use of scales. He did ask the DMV to come to the Gulf Road but they can only provide coverage for State highways. Deputy LaPlante gave the Board a report from October 2, 2014 until October 14, 2014. Of the six directed patrols for Route 15, North Wolcott Road and the Gulf Road 16 tickets were issued. Out of those tickets issued, 7 were actual tickets and 9 were warnings. He explained that this is just on the Directed Patrols. The actual will be on their Monthly Report. Todd asked if the Department has a set schedule for their coverage of Wolcott on a monthly basis and Roger explained that they do not due to the partnership with Johnson and Hyde Park. Todd also mentioned that resident's complaints to him consisted of the amount of money that is paid to the Department and that they are not as visible as they used to be and are assuming that they are not getting the coverage that the town is paying for. Bessie commented that the word "Patrol" gives people the wrong idea, that a better term would be Police Services because 53 complaints were reported. Jeff stated that this is not noted publicly. Jeff did re-enforce Todd's comment of the high cost of taxes, the value of their service and the level budget that the Board is shooting for. He also talked of his frustration that the directive to protect our infrastructure (the Gulf Road Bridge) was not carried out. Belinda said that she can post their Monthly Report on the town's website. Roger said that the Department aims to keep their budget below the cost of living which is three percent. Discussion on delinquent taxes, the increase of the tax rate and the re-assessment of the Grand List went down. Roger stated that he would take this information into consideration. Once the new Detective Deputy is hired, Belinda asked that they come to a Board meeting to meet the Board and whomever is here for the meeting that night. The discussion ended with Roger stating that he wants to have clear communication between himself and his Department with the Board and they will strive to ensure that Wolcott residents are more confident of the value of services that they are receiving and paying for.

**Approve The Minutes From October 1, 2014:** Bessie made the motion to accept the minutes. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Budget Hearings**

- **Cemetery Association:** Harvey Reed and Cornelius Reed approached the Board and asked for the same appropriation as last year which is \$7000 for seven cemeteries. The mowing contract is \$8000 and \$100 for the Treasurers bond. They discussed each cemetery and it's condition and cost to maintain. Belinda asked if the Association had ever considered a fundraiser or donations for the cleaning of the gravestones since they are not receiving the interest that they had in the past. They stated that they had not entertained the idea. Jeff thanked them for doing such a great job and offered to help out if needed. Harvey brought in documentation which included all receipts that was done through John to clarify any questions regarding

charges and equipment that is owned by him and the Cemetery Association. Harvey wanted the Board to know that he does a lot without receiving payment and provides his own string, etc. that he does not ask for reimbursement for. The Board stated that it is unfortunate that he is using his own equipment. Discussion on money and equipment. The amount of \$7000 for the Cemetery Association was approved.

- **Fire Warden:** Arlo Sterner approached the Board and requested \$600 which is the same as last year. Arlo informed the Board that there were a few less permits, but spent 38 hours in time and 606 miles due to the necessary inspections. Bernard and Mark are his assistants which he pays \$200 each. He requested that the town pay them separately from him. Belinda thanked Arlo for his services. The Board approved the amount of \$600 for Fire Warden.

**Health Officer and Constable:** Belinda informed the Board that Bernard Earle who holds both positions was in an accident and unable to attend the meeting. Per Belinda Bernard is asking for the same amount as last year which is \$750 for salary and \$300 for mileage for the Health Department. The amount for Constable is \$2500 for salary and \$750 for mileage. All amounts were approved by the Board.

**Turkey Issue – Continuation:** Belinda reviewed the attack of turkeys that were being raised by Mr. Godin and Mrs. Lang-Godin by a dog or possibly two dogs on August 6, 2014. The Lang-Godin's submitted a letter which explained that they were unable to attend the meeting, but are requesting that the town pay half of the replacement cost. In total five twenty-five pounds. The Godin's neighbor, Julie Charanko, whose dog was not seen attacking the turkeys, but was at the scene, are paying half of the estimated cost of the deceased turkeys. The other dog, a stray who had been seen in the area for some time was the one who was caught and shot during the attack. The dog survived. Bernard Earle, Constable, was called to the Godin's that night and went the following day to try to find the dog's owner. . He was told that someone on Arnold's Lane had taken in the dog. Later, Bernard found that the dog had been moved to Craftsbury. Mrs. Lang-Godin is requesting that the town pay the other half of the cost to replace the turkeys due to the fact that the dog was not registered and was not claimed. After researching the law and the town's financial responsibility of paying any amount of the estimated \$525 for the deceased turkeys, is not obligated to reimburse the Godin's for this unfortunate incident. Discussion. Jeff made the motion to deny the Godin's request. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Review and Award Bids – Town Garage Attic – Insulation:** Belinda placed an advertisement in the paper and sent three specific bids to three Insulation Business's. All three of those businesses did submit a bid for the job. Bug A Bee Insulation Company of Williston placed a bid at \$2500, All American Foam of Wolcott placed a bid of \$3550 which included vents and Village Builders of Wolcott for \$2000 which included an access hatch. Discussion. Richard made the motion to accept Village Builder's bid which was the lowest bid. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Review Correspondence/Sign:**

- **Town Hall Permit:** Barb Gravel for October 19, 2014.

**New Business:**

- **Petition – Hardwick Electric for Replacement of Transformer:** The Board read the notice of petition, which is to replace the one transformer at the Dam.
- **Payroll Orders – Sign:** Signed with discussion regarding the budget to date versus actual for the Zoning Department. Half of the \$7500 budget has been used in three and a half months. More discussion and comparison of last year's hours. The Board has decided to bring in Tom Martin, Zoning Administrator to explain the increase in time and the budget.

**Amendments To The Agenda:**

**Adopt Resolution – Use of Union Bank ACH System:** Belinda withdrew herself from the amendment and passed it over to Jeff. Discussion. Richard made the motion authorizing Linda and Belinda use of the ACH System through the Union Bank for tax payments. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed. Belinda abstained from the motion.

**Old Business:**

**School Street Water System:** Belinda informed the Board that the Town received three of the four resident's delinquent payments after sending out shut off notices for October 16, 2014. One of the three has set up a payment plan. Bessie spoke with this resident and she invited him to come to this Board meeting. This resident did not appear. Bernard will shut off the water tomorrow unless paid.

Todd made the motion to adjourn. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Selectboard Meeting  
*November 5, 2014*