

WOLCOTT SELECTBOARD MEETING

November 5, 2014

Wolcott Town Office
6:00 p.m.

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

Public: *Greg Williams, Jackie Burgess, Sally Gardner, Patricia Ingraham,*

Reporter: *None*

Correspondent: Val Mason

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Comments from the Community: None

Tom Martin – Zoning: Tom was unable to attend tonight's meeting that the Board had asked him to answer questions that they had regarding his time that he has used to date versus his actual budget for the Zoning Department. Tom submitted a letter to the Board that Belinda read. Tom stated that he does not believe that he is going to exceed the Zoning Budget. He explained that a majority of his time is spent in the summer months and that he is currently only spending six hours on Fridays. Tom also noted that he is currently working with Cartographic Technologies, Inc. on a Northern Vermont Parcel Data Grant Program. With assistance from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information the town will have GIS Parcel Data Tax Maps which will be more accurate than the current maps. Tom mentioned that his salary is coming out of the Zoning Budget but will be reimbursed at the end of the project for about six hundred dollars. Tom mentioned that in his letter he would be happy to discuss any questions with the Board during the budget hearing for the Zoning Department.

Mr. Wengel – Private Road Sign: Mr. Wengel was not present for the meeting. Belinda gave the Board the history of a property on West Hill Road that in 2005 Mr. Flanders did a sub-division with the town. This created three lots. One of the lots that were pre-existing had a huge road going through the lot to go to the lot behind it. Belinda passed around the map showing this. Mr. Flanders built a house on another lot and a garage with apartment above it, which is a separate residence. Mr. Wengel now owns the lot with the road that goes through it. He feels that this is his property and removes any signs that are placed at the end of the right of way. Jason Hill and Hilary Mitchell who bought the house have a deaf child and want it clearly marked for 911 Emergency Vehicles, so a stake was placed with the number of their address. Mr. Wengel removed it. Mr. Hill came into the Town Clerk's Office asking what to do since it is within the twenty-five foot right of way. After Belinda reviewed the subdivision permit for Mr. Flanders with the Zoning Administrator he was supposed to put a driveway off West Hill, which he did not. He instead placed a driveway

off the access road. The town ordinance states that a shared driveway of any length having three or more residences on it shall be defined as a private road and requires a name. Belinda has not received any response from the Flanders, so she spoke with Mr. Hill who in turn, attempted to talk to the Flanders who did not want to discuss it. So, Mr. Hill decided to name the road Natalie's Lane, as this is the name of his daughter. The town put up the sign and Mr. Wengel immediately phoned Belinda and informed her that he will be taking the sign down and will have a lawsuit against the town even though the sign is within the twenty-five foot right of way. Todd went and measured the distance of the sign from the road which is clearly in the town right of way and he tried explaining to Mr. Wengel that the town right of way on West Hill Road is 50 feet wide. Discussion. The Board stands firm that the sign will remain according to the town ordinances and the State unless Mr. Wengel and Mr. Flanders decide to put in a driveway off West Hill.

Approve the Minutes of October 15th: Todd made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET HEARINGS

- **Athletic Association – 6:30 p.m.:** Jackie Burgess appeared before the Board as Secretary of the Athletic Association. She did not have a request in writing, but will present one to Belinda tomorrow. The Association is requesting \$1000 for renovations, uniforms, equipment and improvements to the fields. Belinda requested that the treasurer present the books for the Board's review. Todd also informed her to contact him when they would like to have the dug outs moved and the other projects at the field/Park.
- **Library – 6:45 p.m.:** Librarian Sally Gardner and Library Trustee Chair Patricia Ingraham appeared before the Board for their budget hearing. Ms. Gardner handed out a copy of the requested budget, statistics for January 2014 – October 2014 for adult patrons, public children's visits and computer/Wi-Fi use. She also listed all of the programs that are offered and the attendance of patrons to these programs as well as the passes available through the library and that Sally does weekly outreach story time at the Depot Preschool as well as weekly story hour. Her statistics also showed that circulation is up by three hundred and ninety six. The requested budget is \$8025 compared to \$7530 from last year. Part of this is due to the need to replace the two computers that have become infected with a virus that cannot be fixed. Jeff informed them that the Board is aiming for a flat budget. Belinda asked if they could move things around within their budget to make this work by possibly purchasing fewer books to be able to purchase one Google Chromebook and the other Google chrome book can be paid for by a grant through the library. Discussion on the problem of patrons having to be let into the library as the "buzz in" system is not working. Sally stated that this will be repaired. The floor is planning to be completed during the school's winter vacation. The library has adopted a Behavior Policy as the goal is for the relationship between the school and resident patrons to work

as well as for the high school students to be able to enter through the Library entrance. Discussion on a Service Brochure to include a "Quiet Time" for patrons who Belinda asked that it be placed in the Town Report and to be handed out at Town Meeting and Patricia stated they will put on Front Porch Forum. The town does have a link for the library on their website.

- **Transfer Station – 7:00 p.m.:** The budget is not ready as Belinda is attempting to get the port-o-let at a cheaper price which she is still waiting for a price on since this was not in the budget. Belinda also has a call into the rental on the containers to see if \$25 dollars could be deducted from the \$125 that the town is currently paying for the total of three containers. The re-certification also has to be completed for December which has to include a plan for composting and yard waste for 2017.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Town Hall Permit – sign:** Request from Barb Gravel for November 29, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for an inside sale. Discussion. The Board would like to know if this is a fundraiser or function. Belinda will inquire. Jeff made the motion to accept and sign the requested permit. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Green Up Coordinator:** A letter was received from the president of Green Up Day requesting the verification of the selection of town coordinator for Green Up Day which is May 2, 2015. Belinda asked Richard if he would like to be the coordinator again this year. Richard accepted. Belinda made the motion to appoint Richard Lee as Green Up Day Coordinator. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Belinda mentioned that Richard may ask someone to be his co-coordinator. He stated that he will ask Mark and let Belinda know.

New Business:

- **Request For Dead End Sign:** A letter was received from Lana and Michael Young requesting that a Dead End Sign be placed at the beginning of Young Road as they receive a lot of turn around traffic that occurs by their shop. Discussion. Todd will look to see if the town has a sign, if not Belinda will inform the Young's of the cost and if they are willing to purchase it, the town will put one up.
- **Survey of North Wolcott Property:** Belinda phoned David Polow regarding the well that Brian Burgess had drilled on town property. He suggested that the town get a survey done to enforce the issue and protect the town's rights. If the well is in fact on town property, the town has the legal right to give an easement for the well and the town would not be liable and would not have to maintain the well. Discussion. Jeff made the motion for the town to pay for a survey of the property and then the Board will decide what action they will take. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **School Street Water – Shut Off:** Every resident has since paid their water bill to the town. Discussion regarding Town Meeting and the asking of the voter's authorization for the Board to give/sell the system.

- **Sand/Gravel – Pit Idea:** Todd explained to the Board that a resident on Baldwin Brook Road who has a huge bank of sand and is willing to sell it to the town. Todd will need to check into permits for certain amounts. Jeff recommended that Todd proceed with this idea of a proposal for the cost per yard, estimated cost to screen per yard and do a comparison. Belinda also mentioned that Don Putvain's property is for sale which is across the road, who used to sell sand to the town. She recommended that the town check into how much sand is there as well for purchase. Richard made the motion to proceed with research of this plan. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft Audit: The board was informed that the town has a \$55,000 surplus compared to \$19000 from last year.

Old business: None

The Board held an in depth discussion about different areas in town they could improve. They want to lead by example and abide by the town plan. The Board discussed sending a mail survey or at Town Meeting asking residents where they would like the town to be in five years. They agreed that they will continue to push for grants and will move things around in the budget, if needed, because the tax payers need relief.

During this discussion, the Board discussed having the Sherriff's Department a separate article from their budget on Town Meeting. Jeff made the motion to make the Sherriff's Department Budget a separate article. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed. Bessie abstained.

Belinda informed the Board that they will be doing a walk-through of two of the buildings that MSI plans to tear down at the former Buck's Furniture store on November 19th at 6:00 pm. He is working on plans for this space.

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

Belinda adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

*Next Selectboard Meeting
November 19, 2014*