

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**May 18, 2016**

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Bessie Martin, Richard Lee, Kim Gravel

Members Absent: Eric Furs

Town Employees: Bernard Earle, Skip Patten, Claude Cross

Public: Bill Cotton, Jim Holton, Don Lowell, Greg Williams, Kate Wilson, Toby Talbot

Reporter: None

Correspondent: Val Mason

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Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting the board conducted an informal inspection of town bridge #7 at the junction of North Wolcott Road and Fort Hill Road to see what shape it was in since it has been closed to traffic for a number of years. Phil Huffman of the Nature Conservancy and Jens Hilke with the VT Fish & Wildlife Department were also in attendance.

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

**Joanne LeBlanc – Pre-school Lease discussion:** Kate Wilson, Vice-Chair of the Wolcott Elementary School Board attended the meeting in place of Joanne LeBlanc, Superintendent of the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. Due to recent legislation, it is now the responsibility of the individual school district to enter into a lease (if needed) to house their pre-school children, instead of the Supervisory Union. The current lease that the town has with the OSSU is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018. Kate proposed a maximum of a two year lease with a zero monthly payment. She said that since the town does not pay rent on the library that is housed in the school that it should be a wash. The Board did not agree and was even surprised because they got the impression from the superintendent that the lease would end this June and a new lease would be enacted for the upcoming year between the town and the school district. Belinda reminded her that the town pays for most of the librarian's salary, owns over ninety percent of the books, pays for Bernard, who performs all outside maintenance for the pre-school and the town plows the parking lot. OSSU at the time chose to have their own custodian, even though one was offered by the town. Kate informed the Board that it is on the School Board's agenda to look into the cost of the school having their own library and moving the pre-school to the school. There was heated discussion on both sides how this would impact the children and the tax payers as the revenue and rent was budgeted and approved for by voters at town meeting. The Board is going to consult with their attorney regarding the current lease with OSSU because even though the legislature has changed, the lease states that only the town can terminate the lease. Belinda recommended that the school board also consult with the OSSU to see if they are willing to transfer the lease legally.

**Claude Cross – possible employment:** Claude has been helping out the road crew as much as he is able. The Board asked Claude to commit to a permanent position for the summer as road crew member with a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 40 hours per week. Skip said that it is nice to have the extra help. It was decided that he and the Board will re-visit his employment in August for the winter with a full time position. Motion by Belinda that the town continues to employ Claude through the summer with a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 40 hours per week. The days are flexible. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

**Jim Holton – Fire Truck Discussion:** Jim Holton and Toby Talbot, representative for Toyne Incorporated presented the Board with three proposals for the new fire truck. The least expensive proposal is for \$324,489.21, which includes a discount of \$6142.11. It states that within fifteen days from signing the contract agreement that a payment of \$165,383.06 must be made. Upon delivery of the truck, which will be in 330 days, a payment of \$159,106.06 is due. The Board recommends that the fire department get an extended warranty on the chassis. Toby explained that the truck comes with a 2 year warranty, 5 year warranty on the engine and transmission and extended warranties for 84 months are available on all warranties. He gave an estimate of \$5000 to purchase all of the extended warranties, which Jim said the fire department could purchase. Motion by Bessie to accept the purchase Agreement with Toyne Incorporated for \$324,489.21, with the understanding that the fire department will purchase the extended warranties with an estimate of \$5000. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. All present Board members signed the agreement. The original will be given to Linda so that she may put it out to bid.

**Chad Roy – Historic School Restoration:** Chad Roy, Bill Cotton and Don Lowell were present for the Historic School Restoration Committee discussion. Chad informed the Board that the committee has had three meetings and that they meet every other month. He said that there are two options, to either restore it or tear it down. The consensus of the committee is to try to save it, but he stated that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done to get that conclusion. They have spoken to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community and found that there is a \$20,000 grant available with a \$20,000 match for the town. When asked what the \$40,000 would be used for, he said that the focus, which they are planning to do in phases, is to start with Phase 1. This phase would be to secure the structure of the building by replacing the roof and any potential foundation work if the building is to be found salvageable. He said that the potential future uses could be a museum, a public meeting space and a space for private events. The committee would like to re-visit the architectural study that was done in 2008. They plan to have a new study done by an architect that is on the required list by the state. The Board agreed to allow the committee access to prep the building with a contractor. Bernard will place “Do Not Enter” signs on the building. The second option was also discussed which is tearing the building down. The committee will get the list of necessary requirements to do so. Also, Don recommended that it would be advantageous to have an expert come in and asses the value of certain parts of the building to salvage and sell which are of great value. The goal of the committee is to have a “yes” or “no” vote for what is proposed for the town meeting in the year 2017.

**Bernard Earle – Route 15 Water Issues:** Bernard presented the Board with the findings from the water test sample that was taken from the town hall and was performed by the Manosh Corporation. The report shows that the water from the town hall is the source of the issues that Mrs. Wells has been experiencing. Nick Manosh recommended a system be placed in the town hall that will fix the water problem for Mrs. Wells’ residence and will improve the water for the town hall, the post office and Mr. Tourangeau. Belinda provided the original agreement between the town and Mr. & Mrs. Wells from 1987. The fee for this system is \$4000. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to purchase this water system and replace the pressure tank at the town hall. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

**Approve the Minutes of May 5, 2016:** Discussion. Bessie pointed out that on Page 3, under “Reed Road Petition”: Line 5, to change the word “beginning” to “begin”. Also, on Page 3, under “Old Business”, “Frazier Road Possible Removal” should be “Fort Hill Road Possible Removal”. Motion by Kim to accept the minutes with amendments made. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

**Comments from the Community:** Greg disagrees with the idea of restoring the old school house and thinks that it should be torn down. He said that he is not opposed to change, but thinks the town should be run like a business.

**New Business:**

- **Excess Pavers:** Belinda informed the Board that 90 square feet of blue stone pavers totaling \$633.20 have been left over from the project near the rail trail. Discussion. Motion by Richard to keep the pavers and pay the contractor, which are at his cost in case any damage occurs to the ones that have been placed. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. Bernard will find secure storage for them.

**Old Business:**

- **None**

**Review Correspondence/Sign:**

- **Town Hall Permits (2):** Miranda Bird for June 25, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Amanda Wolff for July 9, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Both will not have alcohol present. Motion by Kim to accept both permits. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.
- **Land Use Permit:** The Board discussed the letter from the State of Vermont for the Wolcott Mennonite Church explaining an addition that they will be constructing onto their existing church and the addition of the parking area.

**Discussion on the Fort Hill bridge site visit (Bridge #7):** The Selectboard members did a site visit to the Fort Hill Bridge (Bridge #7) prior to tonight's meeting. Pictures were taken. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to use the \$10,000 bridge repair money to hire an engineer to assess the bridge and provide a report, so that the Board can make an informed decision as to what to do with it. Seconded by Bessie. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Kim to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Richards. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.