

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting May 20, 2015

Wolcott Town Office
6:00 p.m.

Selectboard Members: *Belinda Clegg, Bessie Martin, Todd Harris, Richard Lee*

Wolcott Town Employees: *Linda Martin, Skip Patten, Greg Adams Sr.*

Public: *Greg Williams, Melinda Scott, Allison Hayes, Taylor Foster, Dominick LaPort, Meyla Adams, The LaFont family, Don and Colleen Putvain, Kurt Aschenbach, Bruce Aschenbach, Nathaniel Skorstad*

Reporter: *None*

Correspondent: *Valerie Mason*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Comments from the Community: Greg Adams Sr. presented the Board with a letter from the Ford Motor Company stating that that repair on the crank shaft seal that needed to be done was caused by normal wear and tear. Greg also presented the Board with a Heavy Duty Air Drum Brake Diagnostics, Maintenance and Repair Clinic Certificate that he received for completing this training on April 10, 2015.

Capital Budget – LCPC: Melinda Scott provided copies of a sample capital budget from the Town of Hyde Park for their review. She then presented them with an outline of the necessary steps for this process. She reviewed this information with the Board. She explained that a capital budget consists of a list describing any capital projects to be done in the coming fiscal year with an estimated cost and proposed method of financing. She then talked of a capital program which is capital projects and improvements to be proposed 5 to 10 years in the future with a minimum of \$5000. The first step is to review finance and budget history. The Planning Commission and each department should participate in the discussion outlining their future needs. They would start with an equipment inventory, estimated life span and replacement cost of any equipment and then make a list of improvements and purchases that would be needed going forward. Melinda described the various ways to fund these projects such as loans, bonds or reserve funds. Linda said by creating and funding a capital budget program would keep a stable tax rate for capital needs. Melinda also mentioned possible grant funding, donations or vehicle trade in. A levy on impact fees was also discussed on sub-divisions if a capital budget is in place. Melinda informed the Board about certain statutes that apply. She said that a special meeting would need to be warned to establish a reserve fund to access for a specific item. Belinda mentioned the recreation fund and how it is expanding. Melinda recommended meeting with the Planning Commission regarding the Town Plan as to the scope of plan or projects. The next step would be for each department to inventory and make lists. Lamoille County Planning Commission is available for assistance. The Board thanked Melinda for her overview.

Envisioning Wolcott – LCPC: Kate Whitehead and Dominick Laport presented the Board with the Project Summary and Recommendations for “Re-Envisioning the Future of Wolcott”. The summary includes outcomes of meetings with residents and the Planning Commission, a survey, one word that residents used to describe Wolcott, the “wants” of residents of which more safe activities was a popular response. Some projects are small, low cost while others are much larger. Discussion of a pedestrian pathway in front of the Town Hall, Parking Lot next to the Post Office and in front of the Wolcott Store that would include planters and or curbing. Belinda will contact the Champlain Oil Company who owns part of the parking lot and asked for a simple design and picture. The Board was also informed that they can request a cross walk. The School Street Park was discussed. The Grant is ending soon but what money is left can be used for benches or planters. Belinda questioned whether a Committee should be formed to work with interested people that would keep the Selectboard informed. Belinda will put this on Front Porch Forum for a five person committee. They explained that the dog run is part of a master plan and everything is being done in phases. Belinda did state that every year there is money for the Wolcott Athletic Association. The Board was also informed that MSI is planning on changing the landscape, making parking improvements and changing the siding at the former Buck Furniture property.

Road Foremen

Nathaniel Skorstad – Simmons Road: Mr. and Mrs. LaFont explained that they are concerned with the loss of land and damage that has been done to their trees due to Mr. Skorstad’s road work as he has widened the Class IV road in front of their property. They are also concerned with the quality of the work that he has done such as raising the road, ditching and placing a culvert. They informed the Board that they were never contacted by the town or Mr. Skorstad asking permission. Belinda provided a town map of the road and explained that the town has a fifty foot right of way and that it clearly states 1.75 from the Lafont property to the middle of the road. Belinda suggested that Skip and Todd go back to the area and inspect the work that has been done, measure and take photographs. Belinda will also contact the Tree Warden, Mike Green to inspect the damaged trees. This issue will be re-visited at the next meeting.

Don and Colleen Putvain: Appeared before the Board and explained that they have been trying to sell their property for the past 4 years. Finally, a real estate agent brought it to their attention that their taxes seemed high for the area. Their agent recommended that they contact the Lister’s Office for a Cost Assessment Card, of which they did not know existed. It showed that their taxes were being assessed on 3 acres of a sand pit, of which is not on their property. The Putvains are seeking reimbursement for the years that they have been unknowingly over paying on their property taxes. Belinda explained that the Selectboard cannot adjust or reimburse them for any error on property tax assessments. She recommended that they submit a clear letter explaining the issue to Linda Martin, Clerk for the Board of Abatement and she will schedule a meeting to discuss the matter with the Board.

Approve the Minutes of May 6, 2015: Belinda and Bessie pointed out two errors. The first being on Page1 under “Comments from the Community”, paragraph 2, line 7. The sentence reads “that that” and should be only one “that”. Belinda made the motion to

accept the minutes with the correction of the typographical errors. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **LCSD Contract – Patrol:** Belinda provided copies of the contract for review. Discussion of two additions to the contract. The first falls under number 8. It reads that the Board must authorize consent before any seizure of animals. The second is in number 9. It reads that if any enhanced traffic enforcement, foot patrol, assistance with parades, etc. services are requested that there may be a potential of additional costs beyond the contract. Discussion. Bessie made the motion to accept the contract that begins July 1, 2015 with the amount that the tax payers approved. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. All present Board members signed.
- **LCSD Contract – Dispatch:** Reviewed and discussed the contract. Bessie made the motion to accept the contract. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. All present Board members signed.
- **Agreement CAMA – Cost Tables:** Reviewed. Discussion. Todd made the motion to accept. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **LCSD April Report:** Reviewed. Belinda will post on the town's web site.
- **CSWD Fee Increase:** Reviewed letter explaining that the charge for recycling will increase from \$11.00 a ton to \$21.00 a ton due to the drop in recycled commodities. Discussion. Effective July 1, 2015.
- **Highway Grants – Denied:** Belinda provided a copy of a letter from Tom Anderson, Project Manager for the State of Vermont denying all three Highway Grant requests. He explained that this was due to the available grant funds and the amount of grants that were requested. He invited the Board to re-apply next year. Discussion.
- **2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants:** Linda proposed a Feasibility Study to find out if it is possible to create a bicycle and pedestrian lane on the North Wolcott Road. Discussion. The Board agreed to pursue this Plan and will work with the Regional Planning Commission. Todd made the motion to accept this plan. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Order to Approve Alteration of the dam at Wolcott Pond:** Letter received from the State of Vermont informing the Town of their Notice to complete repairs and alterations at Wolcott Pond Dam. There will be a seventy two hour notice prior to construction.

New Business:

- **Summer Meeting Dates:** Discussion. Belinda made the motion for the Board to meet June 10th, July 8th and August 12th for their summer meeting dates. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Bridge Inspection:** Letter from the State of Vermont informing the Board of their inspection of Bridge 3 in North Wolcott Village. They stated that it is in good shape, but needs some stream bank stabilization and clean up of debris in the channel. Skip will contact Tom Anderson, as he has some questions regarding their recommendations. Tabled for future discussion.
- **Underground Injection Control Well – Action Required:** The Town received a letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation requiring the we close the floor drains at the Town Garage. The State gave the town three options to fix the

problem which are: plugging the concrete, connecting to a holding tank or connecting to a municipal sewer. Todd is going to look into getting a holding tank. A May 7, 2016 completion date is required.

- **Road Crew Applications:** Belinda informed the Board that three applications have been received. It will be advertised in the local papers for 2 more weeks. She recommended that Skip and the rest of the Board members review the applications. Interviews will be scheduled for the next meeting on June 10, 2015.
- **Wolcott Athletic Association:** The WAA contacted Linda with a request for the town to purchase a few “No Smoking Signs” for each field. Belinda made the motion to purchase one sign for the School Street Park and another for the North Wolcott Road Park. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Belinda also mentioned to Skip that they would like boulders placed along the ball fields to prevent vehicles from driving on the field.
- Belinda questioned the road crew regarding the painting of the lines once the Elmore Pond Bridge is completed. It is imperative that painting “stop ahead” and “stop” on the North Wolcott Road as it intersects with VT Route 15. This intersection has safety and congestion concern. Skip is going to speak with Tom Anderson from the State to see what can be done.

Old Business:

- **Sand Pit – Act 250 Update:** Belinda informed the Board that Ned Houston has sent a second letter following up, as there was no response from Susan from his first letter. Nothing to report at this time. Ned will inform the Board if the Commission wishes to view the sand pit.
- **Report from Robert Harris on Town Chairs:** Robert informed Belinda of the condition of the existing sixty three chairs. Belinda will look into the cost of new chairs and will present this information at the next meeting and the Board can make a decision.

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

Belinda adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Next Selectboard Meeting June 10, 2015