

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting May 6, 2015

Wolcott Town Office
6:00 p.m.

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

Wolcott Town Employees: *Bernard Earle, Skip Patten, Robert Harris*

Public: *Greg Williams, Rob Moore, Jim Manza, Ron Barre*

Reporter: *None*

Correspondent: *Val Mason*

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Access highway permit for residential driveway.

Comments from the Community: Greg Williams addressed the Board regarding the Old Schoolhouse Building. He feels that after the necessary renovations, that it will no longer be considered an historic building. Belinda informed Mr. Williams that the town is looking into having someone from the state come to see the Building and will inform the town as to what can be done, as it is listed as a historic building. Ron added that he feels that it is more of a liability than an asset. Belinda reminded everyone that the results from the Selectboard Survey showed that the residents are interested in what the cost would be to restore the building.

Greg then brought up the town crews 10 hour work days. He stated that he has found in his research that productivity slows down significantly in the afternoon. He also questioned how the road crew has become a 4 man crew, of which one member is Todd. Todd explained that an employee quit in the middle of winter during a snow storm. Ron added that he was on the Board when they approved that Todd was the one to check roads in the morning to save money, instead of paying the Road Foreman. He also added that the Highway Department is the biggest unknown that the town has as far as expenditures. Greg asked why then was Todd painting a snow plow. Todd explained that until a person has been involved in the Road Crew, they have no idea of what goes on. He stated that mud season kept them very busy. Bernard questioned the Board as to why the new sander that was to be used for sand only had been used to salt the North Wolcott road. Todd answered that most of the time it was used for sand, but a few times, on occasion, he used it for salt for the black top instead of calling in the road crew and that it was cleaned appropriately after. Bernard also brought up that it was noticed that the ton truck with a plow was being over worked. Todd answered that he did push the drifts of snow off the roads, but the plow never left the road and this avoided the road crew from being called in to work. Belinda explained that a lot of things should have been approved before hand, as the Board had only authorized for Todd to check on the roads in the early morning hours and to do specific tasks that were asked of him by the Board. Belinda stated that in retrospect, the Board would have done things differently and that the Board will definitely look into this in the future.

Northern Borders Grant: Rob Moore of LCPC and Jim Manza, the consulting engineer of John Turner Consulting provided the Board with the preferred design plan that included the key elements from the last meeting. Jim walked everyone through the design. There will be a total of 8 parking spaces with 10 shrubs in the front. He mentioned that he and Rob had spoken with Mr. McCullough, the town's neighbor in which his land abuts the project. They said that he is in agreement with the screening of shrubs. Jim explained the need for the high berm to hide headlights, protects the shrubs from salt and for noise control. The type of shrubs was also discussed. Jim recommends cedar or pine as they require less maintenance and they provide a good screen. He then went on to the second plan of the pavilion. Belinda asked that the pavers, who are on the plan as coming out of the building be eliminated, but keep them under the roof line. The roof itself will mimic that of the Depot building. The Board requested that the pavilion be large enough for signage and a couple of picnic tables. Jim suggested a 12 x 20 or 12 x 22 foot covered area. Belinda told Jim that the town will look for an old Wolcott sign as there may be several in storage. The information for the trail will be located at the south end, facing the short side, under the roof. Jim let the Board know that he mimicked the Depot building in his approach. The discussion then led to the lighting. It was decided that a motion detected solar light will be installed that the town will provide. The Board was very pleased with the design. The bidding for the project was then discussed. Belinda mentioned that due to the match and the town being able to supply material such as gravel that separating the project for the bids may be necessary. The base bid would consist of the earthwork, shrubs, trees and bushes and the second bid would be for the pavilion. It was the engineer's opinion to put the project out to bid with ads on items. Belinda invited Rob and Jim back to the May 20, 2015 meeting. At this meeting Jim will have a cost estimate so that the project will be set to go out to bid for the June 3, 2015.

Robert Harris - Buildings: Robert provided the Board with his report for the maintenance jobs that he needs to perform on each of the town's buildings for the 2015 season. He went over each item with the Board. Belinda asked that Robert add to his list to check the Town of Wolcott's signs at each end of the village. The bus barn was also discussed and Belinda asked Robert to check that as well and provide a plan for it. Todd and Skip informed the Board that due to the moisture and security, it prevents the road crew from storing certain things. Belinda informed Robert that an electrician must be hired to replace the Exit signs at the Town Hall. Also then to check before he creates an access to the attic in the Town Garage. Skip also mentioned that the paint is peeling on the side of the Town Garage and Todd requested that he change the water pipe to be closer so that they can wash their trucks without using several hoses. This project will also be run by the state to see if permits are needed. Robert will coordinate some of his projects with the road crew as he will need their assistance. Belinda informed everyone that she will check with Paul Cerrutti on the Exit signs and the water pipe for the Town Garage. Richard made the motion for Robert to complete the necessary work that needs to be done, minus the two items Belinda needs to check on. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed with three yes and one abstained.

Bernard Earle – Drainage: Discussion on the problem of the drainage near the Depot Building. Tom, Bernard and Skip have all checked it out and it is covered in backed up water. Bernard brought Skip out to show him the area during the meeting. Belinda stated that if it must be dug up, that it will have to wait until the Preschool year has ended.

Jim Holton – Tire Storage: Jim Holton, Wolcott Fire Department fire chief was not in attendance. Todd explained to the Board that he had been approached by Jim regarding storing some of their equipment where the town stores their tires. Todd informed the Board that he and the town crew had discussed a box trailer due to security. Todd stated that two new tires were stolen. Belinda brought up the scrap metal at the town garage that she would like to be sold and possibly using the money to go towards that. Todd will check into prices and will get back to the Board for approval and that would leave the closed end of the building for the fire department.

Approve Minutes of April 15, 2015: Discussion. Belinda made the motion to accept the minutes. Richard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes of April 27, 2015: Discussion. Belinda made the motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2015. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Town Hall Permits (2) – Sign:** Diana LeRiche for July 17, 2015 for the entire day. Billy Jo Tallman for July 11, 2015 for the entire day. Richard made the motion to approve both permits. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Monthly Financials & Order Totals:** The total of Orders for April 2015 was \$112,413.11. This total includes the Selectboard, Appropriations, Equipment, Class 1, 2, 3, and 4 roads. Discussion. Belinda also handed out Budget vs. Actual and a comparison report of this year vs. last year for the Board to review and will discuss at the May 20, 2015 meeting.
- **Dog Warrant:** Discussion. Thirty six dogs remain on the Unlicensed Dog List. The Board signed the dog warrant to impound unlicensed dogs by the authority of the State of Vermont. The Board asked that Bernard first call or visit these owners as a last reminder. Richard made the motion that authorizes Bernard to remind these owners and impound, if necessary any unlicensed dogs. Bessie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. All present Board members signed this document.
- **Notice of Violation – Frank Brock:** Discussion. The town sent a Warning of Notice of Violation of the Town’s Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles. This warning gives Mr. Brock twenty days to comply. The State informed Bernard that fines will be issued and assistance will be given if necessary.
- **Violation - Tim Jones:** Discussion. The town gave twenty days to comply. Complaints from neighbors of rubbish blowing onto their property. The Jones are very motivated to clean up their property. Belinda informed the Board that a donor has been found who will pay for five out of every ten bags of rubbish that they bring to the Transfer Station. Ron posed the question of a dumpster possibly through Mr.

Hill. Belinda will assist the Jones in contacting Hill's for a dumpster. Extended time until end of June, 2015.

New Business:

- **Sand Contract:** Discussion. Skip informed the Board that after looking at material and pricing, he recommends signing a one year contract with Gravel for six thousand yards at \$6.00 a yard. Skip pointed out that by doing business locally it will also save on labor, time and mileage. Demer's was \$4.75 a yard, but required the money up front and stated that if the town went over six thousand yards, that the price per yard would go up to \$5.00. Belinda wants the contract to be firm, with no change if fuel prices rise. Richard made the motion for the town to sign a one year contract with Gravel for six thousand yards at \$6.00 a yard. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Agreement – Use of North Wolcott Ball Field:** A letter was received by Timothy Davison, League President for the Hardwick Men's Softball League stating that they are responsible for anything that occurs at the North Wolcott Recreational Field on the evenings that they are occupying it for the use of softball games. Discussion. A port-o-let will be delivered soon. The league has given a \$300 check to the town for the use of the field for Tuesday evenings. The Board decided to remove the existing trash can so that people who use the field will bring their trash with them when they leave.
- **Flyer for Transfer Station – Mandatory Recycling:** Discussion. Due to the State's enacted Universal Recycling Law, the town, as of July 1, 2015 will be required to provide recycling containers alongside all trash containers in all public spaces. Belinda will check into the pricing of these bins. Trash pricing as of July 1, 2015 will be based on volume or weight. Also, as of July 1, 2015 the Transfer Station must accept leaf and yard debris. More discussion on the timeline of effective laws. Belinda stressed that education will be key. Fees will be looked at in the future.
- **Wolcott Athletic Association – Request:** The Wolcott Athletic Association requested boulders for the School Street Park to keep vehicles off the basketball court. Skip will provide cedar wood that the town has that is not in use.

Old Business:

- **Sand Pit – Act 250 Update:** Belinda informed the Board that the town has hired Ned Houston, as engineer, from Houston Environmental Services to represent the town. He initially met with Belinda, Bessie, Skip and Claude at the Town Office to review the file and then went to do a site visit with Bessie, Skip and Claude. Belinda presented copies of his letter to Susan Baird with the State of Vermont. He is still awaiting a response. Mr. Houston's letter states that he recommends leaving the pit in its existing condition. He states that the pit does not impose any significant environmental impacts and that the risk associated with it remaining in its "as is" condition is minimal. He mentions that another reclamation process would be very costly and would require a great deal of new clearing of trees and excavation would be required. He recommended that a site visit with Ms. Baird, the commission and he would be most helpful. He also mentioned that this was due to

miscommunication by the State and the town, that the project is in limbo and needs to be moved forward so that all parties are satisfied and the Act 250 permit can be closed. Belinda told the Board that the “costly reclamation process” that Mr. Houston described would be in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range which would be the town’s responsibility and would need to be completed if the site does not meet the State’s criteria by the end of the year.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Access Highway Permit for Residential Driveway:** Tom Hoermann of 71 Marsh Road requested a driveway permit to access the Marsh Rd. Skip did a site visit and signed off on it. Discussion. Belinda made the motion to accept this permit. Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.