

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
July 19, 2017
Approved August 9th

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Kim Gravel, Michael Davison
Members Absent: Richard Lee, Eric Furs
Town Employees: Skip Patten, Val Mason
Public: Sargent Watson, LCSD, Detective Sargent Ross, LCSD, Kee Gillen, Katie Black, Dom Laporte, Brian Burgess, Allison Hayes
Reporter: None

Belinda called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Budget vs. Actual Report:** Belinda handed out a Budget vs. Actual Report for July 2016 through June 2017. Reviewed.

Brian Burgess – Property Line/acreage: Mr. Burgess of North Wolcott village appeared before the Board to dispute the town’s 2015 Stancliff survey of his property which shows that the well that he had dug is on the town line. Brian stated that the 1976 registered Justice Wheeler survey should be the official survey to his property. The Board pointed out that it does not have actual GPS plot points. The listers have since re-assessed the acreage of his property to show a decrease from 1.2 to .51, which is the correct taxable acreage according to the 2015 survey. The Board suggested that Brian go before the Board of Abatement to be refunded for the overage of taxes that he has been paying on. Brian asked the Board to consider deeding him the adjacent Lot B that the town owns to avoid having to go to court, since it is undevelopable. A lengthy discussion occurred. The Board agreed that they have to follow the legal advice they have been given by attorney David Polow which is to consider the 2015 registered Stancliff survey as the official survey of the lots and that Brian get his own survey done. Brian stated that he does not need to have another survey done according to his attorneys. Town will have Bernard put up No Trespassing Signs until an agreement is reached.

Skip Patten – Summer/Fall Work Schedule, Overtime: The Board asked Skip if he can possibly leave work early or come in late the following day, if he is required to attend Selectboard meetings to avoid overtime. Skip stated that now that he is aware, this is what he will do. The summer/fall work schedule was also discussed. Skip informed the Board that the department is currently working on the Elmore Pond road. They will then move onto the North Wolcott road, following that they will be working on Baldwin Brook, Sand Hill, Morey Hill and the grant project at the town garage. The Board also asked Skip to please call one of them if clarification is ever needed regarding anything. This is stemming from Mark’s comments to Skip & Claude regarding the grading training that the Board sent Mark to. Skip explained that the training was a waste since it is book learning only on roads that are from the west that are not at all like Vermont roads. The Board will also

send Skip copies of the minutes. The Board apologized for how this was portrayed to Skip by Mark and the break in communication that occurred. Skip reiterated that he would like Eric to stop by the garage to see their daily operations. The entire Board showed interest in seeing this and plan to visit the garage when possible.

Lamoille County Sherriff's Department – Preference Patrol, Concerns, Solar Speed

Limit Sign: Sergeant Watson & Detective Sergeant Ross informed the Board that the department is purchasing radar speed limit signs for each town that is contracted with them. The Board asked if Wolcott could possibly have 2 to include North Wolcott. The department explained that these signs track the time, car count, percentage of vehicles over the speed limit & by how much. They explained that the capabilities of the units depend upon which unit is chosen to be purchased and that the 3 boards are responsible to research the units and decide on which unit to have the department purchase. They suggested that the Board speak with Ron from Hyde Park. The town will be responsible for the installation, maintenance & insurance of the unit(s). The department went on to explain that they will be implementing **HIP** (High Impact Patrols) to each contracted town based on past experience and current issues. Active extracurricular activities were discussed in the village. Foot patrols will be included. This will be in addition to the directed patrols. The Board and public discussed issues in town such as the possible need of installing more lights in the Town office parking lot and possibly cameras as the preschool has had damage to some of their playground equipment. They stated that they would assist the town in any way they can. Belinda will have one of the street lights on route 15 & at the town garage repaired. Belinda plans to attend the department's upcoming advisory committee meetings which are informational and includes discussion on the towns concerns.

Kee Gillen – Town Improvements, Town Picnic: Kee informed the Board that he would like to possibly turn the back corner of the post office parking lot into a "green space" to include a deck overlooking the river, a possible picnic table(s) and historical signage of the old mill. Belinda will speak with Bruce Wheeler from the Historical Society when she sees him about possible historical signage. The Board asked to see plans for the idea when they become available. Belinda explained that her phone calls to MSI have not been returned regarding the painting of their buildings. Kee also discussed the Wolcott portion of the rail trail as it is low on the priority list & is possibly 5 years out for completion. He mentioned putting in a bike path in the meantime, along the road to bypass the bridges to allow for use of the rail trail. Belinda will give Kee, LCPC's Rob Moore contact information. A foot bridge was also discussed that could be installed to allow residents to walk on from the post office parking lot to the store parking lot to avoid residents from having to walk on the side of the road on the bridge. Kee mentioned what a great improvement the fence was for the school street park and how much positive feedback he received. Belinda authorized for him to store it in the data room at the town office. He also mentioned that the trash can shelter is half built and that the work on the rain garden is currently underway. Belinda mentioned that a snow fence will be installed this winter to protect the rain garden. The north Wolcott ball field was also discussed as the recreation committee would like to eventually take over the running of it. The recreation committee is low on members, so new membership will be advertised on front porch forum. Kee thought that it would be a

great idea to piggy back the Fire Department's open house that is scheduled for July 29th so he has organized a kickball game at the ball field on school street. He will advertize it. The town picnic for next year was also discussed. The recreation committee along with the formation of another committee will possibly head this. Kee will contact librarian, Sally Gardner to discuss it further.

Comments from the Community: Katie Black was present to discuss the need for the Board to institute an enforceable rule that makes the owner of an animal that damages property and or injures/kills another animal that belongs to another resident, financially responsible. She stated that she is aware that there is an ordinance in place, but that is not enough. A lengthy discussion occurred. Belinda will contact the VLCT and the town of Hyde Park to assist with the draft of this policy. The Board will keep Katie informed of the progress. The Board feels that they need to have a discussion with Linda regarding meetings and notices given in a timely manner. They will have her attend the August meeting to discuss these issues. Belinda will have Bernard go around picking up trash that has been littered along a few of the roadsides so Claude can mow without obstacles.

Approve Minutes of June 14th& 27th: Motion by Kim to accept both sets of minutes with the change of June 14th under Old Business: Michael – Solar: to say “discussed obstacles with the Hardwick Electric Department and the changes of June 27th under Ian Grant – Report on Stray Dog: to say “Justice for” and “kennel fees from that day forward is the responsibility of Justice for Dogs.” Seconded by Michael. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.

New Business:

- **Request to Purchase Mower & or Tractor:** Belinda informed the Board that Bob Vize is interested in purchasing the town's broken mower and/or tractor. Discussion. Belinda will speak with Skip regarding the value of both. and move forward with sale.
- **Set 2017-2018 Tax Rate:** The Board set the tax rate along with the Vermont Department of Taxes that sets the school district tax rate. The town tax rate is \$.6580 for this year. Last year's town tax rate was \$.6579. The school district residential tax rate for this year is \$1.53, as opposed to last year which was \$1.50. This year's non-residential tax rate is \$1.49. Motion by Kim to accept the tax rate as set with mention that the Board has no control over the school tax rate and the formula that is set by the state for residential and non-residential rates. Seconded by Belinda. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. Signed by the Board.
- **Review/Approve Internal Financial Control Checklist/Action:** Belinda presented the checklist to the Board that she & Linda completed together for the auditors. This was reviewed and discussed along with some minor changes made. Motion by Kim to sign & approve the Internal Financial Control Checklist. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. Signed by the Board.
- **Authorization to Collect Expenses by Attorney for Tax Sale/Action:** Belinda read the authorization letter from attorney Dick Sargent authorizing his office to collect expenses from the town for legal assistance in preparation for or conduct of any tax sale provided. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to sign this agreement. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. Signed.

- **Sally Gabaree Property –Assessment Report from Ned Houston:** Belinda read the report from engineer, Ned Houston which explained that Ms. Gabaree’s property is not a good candidate for the town to acquire for sand & gravel. Belinda informed Ms. Gabaree thanking her for the offer, but that the town is not interested.
- **Appointment to the Planning Commission:** Discussion. Motion by Belinda to appoint Bruce Wheeler for a multiyear term to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **LCSD – June Monthly Report:** Reviewed and discussed.
- **Review Pre-Approved Monthly and Payroll Orders:** Reviewed & Signed.
- **Education Tax Rate 2018:** Reviewed and discussed.
- **Final Report –North Wolcott Road Scoping Study:** Belinda informed the Board that copies of the final report are available for them to view of the North Wolcott Road Scoping Study that includes the state’s responses.
- **Update on VTrans High Rural Roads Project:** The state informed the Board that they are currently advertising for construction of the 100% federally funded low cost safety improvements that the town has requested.
- **Insurance Loss Report for 1/1- 6/30:** Reviewed. The town received \$22101.02 for the town truck that was destroyed in a fire that occurred in a garage where it was being serviced.

Old Business:

- **Possible Update on Solar Discussion for Landfill – Michael:** Tabled until the August meeting.
- **Review Final Letter re: Outdoor Junk – Eric:** Tabled until the August meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Belinda to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2017.’

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.

To Do List:

1. Skip to contact the LCSD for directed patrols.