

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
December 6, 2017

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Eric Furs, Richard Lee, Michael Davidson, Kim Gravel
Members Absent: None
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Skip Patten, Maxfield English
Public: Payne from Encore, Deborah Klein, Franklin Nutt
Reporter: None

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

Approve Minutes of November 15th: Discussion. Motion by Mike to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. (Eric had not arrived to the meeting yet).

Eric arrived.

Deborah Klein – Interview: Deborah Klein appeared before the Board for an interview for the position of Lister. The Board told her that they were impressed by the cover letter and application that she had submitted. She stated that she has an open and completely flexible schedule, is computer literate and is totally fine with physical work that will be required at times. She explained that she was a prosecuting attorney, so she feels that she can handle the grievances that she will have to deal with from tax payers. She was made aware that training is required by the State. Motion by Mike to hire Deborah Klein as Lister for the town at \$11 per hour. Seconded by Belinda. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Review and Sign Payroll Orders for 11/21/17 & 12/5/17:** Reviewed and signed.
- **Review and Sign School Tax Payment Order:** Reviewed and signed.
- **Review and Sign Equipment Loan Payment Order:** Reviewed and signed.
- **Spread Sheet with Three Proposals to Develop Solar Landfill:** Payne from Encore was present. He explained that there are obviously some big unknown variables such as the Hardwick Electric Department, but their offer is conservative yet competitive. He estimated that they would break ground by 2019 at the latest. Mike provided a spread sheet showing three proposals to develop solar at the landfill by Novus, Green Lantern and Encore. The Board feels that Encore has kept in communication with Mike weekly, that they represented their company at tonight's meeting and that they come with excellent references. Payne explained that the next step, if the Board chooses Encore, would be to sign the lease option agreement. Discussion. Motion by Belinda that the Town accept Encore's proposal and that they enter into an agreement with Encore for the solar renewable energy project to be developed at the landfill. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. The Board will mail a letter to Encore stating that the town is formally

agreeing to this. The Board will sign the lease option agreement with Encore at the next meeting.

- **Interim Zoning Administrator Appointment:** A copy of the Planning Commission minutes were available to the Board and Maxfield English appeared before the Board to inform them that a motion was made at their meeting on December 5, 2017, that made and approved to allow the chair of the Planning Commission, Jim Robert, to become the acting Zone Administrator.
- **Franklin Nutt – Class 4 Road:** Belinda recued herself from this discussion but then spoke on her brother's behalf, who is Mr. Nutt's neighbor, to give them the history of the road. Mr. Nutt appeared before the Board to discuss the problems that he is having with his neighbor, who is impeding access to his camp on the Corley road, in which he is turning into a year round home. Skip was also present for the discussion, although the town does not maintain class 4 roads. Mr. Nutt provided pictures of how his neighbor is ditching water bars; up to 18 inches deep and plowing snow to block his access, according to Mr. Nutt. Skip did visit the road today. He explained that the water bars are needed to keep the road from washing out due to the steepness of the hill. He recommends to Mr. Nutt that he use a hand shovel to slant the direction of the water bars. Mr. Nutt explained that he has tried to talk with his neighbor, so that they can work together to fix this, but has not been able to. After much discussion, the Board is requesting that Mr. Nutt and his neighbor, Jeff Harris attend the next Board meeting to resolve this conflict, since the town owns the deeded right-of-way. The Board is also mailing each party a copy of the policy for winter plowing and parking on town roads.

Comments from the Community: None.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Town Clerk: Linda provided copies of the 2018-2019 Selectboard Budget as well as the Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual for July 2016 through June 2017 and July 1, 2017 through December 5, 2017. Linda explained that she needs a new band of roller shelving. The cost of this is \$1400. She asked the Board if this should come out of her budget or from the Equipment fund. Belinda stated that there is still money in that account. The Board decided to purchase the necessary item through the Equipment fund. Everything remained the same for the Town Clerk's budget except insurance, which is out of everyone's control.

Town: Linda provided copies of the 2018-2019 Selectboard Budget as well as the Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual for July 2016 through June 2017 and July 1, 2017 through December 5, 2017. The Board along with Linda went through the proposed budget line by line. Boarding for dogs was increased from \$300 to \$500, but it was decided to drop license expenses from \$240 to \$200 making the total for Constable/Dogs at \$4200. The debt was discussed next which includes the fire truck loan. The Board had previously made a motion to offset the tax rate by using the \$44,309 payment from the Fire Department to reduce the loan amount equally over two years. Therefore, the fire truck interest was brought to 0 and the amount of the loan to \$14,000 plus. Linda verified with the accountant that this is acceptable and legal. Elections increased to \$2375 since this is

an election year. Emergency management stayed the same as well as the Forest Fire Warden. The Glee Merritt Kelley Community Library appropriation increased \$500 due to their previous request for programs and upgrade necessities. Motion by Kim to approve the increase in the library budget. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. The Health Officer Department was already voted on. The Highway Department was not decided, as Skip and Belinda need to meet. Liability and Property Insurance went down and the Listers remained the same. Under Miscellaneous the County Tax may be lowered. Linda explained that they meet on December 7th for the preliminary budget hearing. Mowing increased by \$100. The Board is requiring a contract and proof of insurance be signed and provided by Mr. Blaisdell for his mowing services. The dues from the VLCT increased slightly. Parks and Recreation stayed the same. Payroll taxes are to be decided after raises are discussed. Planning and Zoning stayed the same. Under Selectboard, the Newspaper Notices were reduced to \$250, but legal services increased from \$1500 to \$2000. The Town Hall building and the Town Office building remained the same. Mileage was dropped from \$200 to \$0 for the Town Report. The Town Building Maintenance Fund increased from \$2000 to \$3000 for the Maintenance Person, but the maintenance and repair was reduced from \$12,000 to \$11,000 and the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department had previously been approved. For Anticipated Revenues, the Board discussed the preschool lease.

Mike is planning to attend the School Board's next meeting on December 14th, so he offered to ask what their plans are for the preschool and if they will move the preschool to the Elementary School or discontinue it. He will ask if they plan on paying a portion of the Librarian's salary if the Library remains at the School and if the pre-school stays in their current space will they are paying rent.

Linda and Belinda will update this budget and will email a copy to each Selectboard member. Linda will also inform the Board of the deadline dates for finalizing their budget and Warning for Town Meeting.

New Business:

- **Lamoille County proposed budget and meeting date:** A warning was provided to the Board informing them that the annual Lamoille County proposed budget is scheduled for December 7, 2017. Belinda informed the Board that the overall budget is decreasing by \$2000.
- **Hazard Identification Survey Report of Town Buildings:** The Board reviewed and discussed the Hazard Identification survey report of the town buildings that was completed by loss control consultant Jim Carrien.
- **Tax Sale – January 3, 2018 – authorization to represent the town:** Motion by Belinda to authorize Linda Martin to represent the town at the tax sale, that is scheduled for January 3, 2017. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.
- **Discuss shoe allowances for road crew:** Discussion. Motion by Mike to approve up to a \$200 limit for each town highway employee to purchase the appropriate OSHSA required work boots. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.

Old Business:

- **Sign – revised and adopted personnel policy change:** The Board signed the revised and adopted personnel policy change.
- **Review and approve “Purchase and Sale Agreement:** Tabled. Belinda will email a copy to the rest of the Board.
- **Response on tree plantings – Arlo:** Belinda explained that the trees that Arlo recommended have already been bought and planted.
- **Finalize Library Budget:** See above, under Town Budget, for the motion finalizing the library budget.
- **Solar Discussion – Continued:** See above. Included in the Amendments, under spread sheet with three proposals to develop Solar at the landfill.
- **Green Lantern Group – Solar Offer:** See above. Included in the Amendments, under spread sheet with three proposals to develop Solar at the landfill.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Listers application:** An application was received for another lister position. The Board will ask the applicant to attend the Board’s December 20th meeting for an interview. Belinda will scan and email the cover letter and resume to the rest of the Board.
- **Radar speed feedback sign – legal rules for installation:** A copy of Vermont Local Roads Program of Legal Procedures was provided and reviewed by the Board.
- **Hardwick Electric Department Integrated Resource Plan (IRP):** The Board reviewed the notice by the Hardwick Electric Department of their IRP plan that they submitted to the Vermont Public Utility Commission.
- **Support of Lamoille County Conservation District:** Discussion. Motion by Eric to give \$50 to support the Lamoille County Conservation District. Seconded by Mike.
Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Belinda. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.

*The next Selectboard Meeting is scheduled for
December 20, 2017*