

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 17, 2018

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Eric Furs, Mike Davidson, Kim Gravel, Richard Lee
Members Absent: None
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Bernard Earle, Skip Patten, Claude Cross
Public: Jim Holton, Mark Drew, Lee Ann Lee, Dana Gravel, Brenda Gravel,
Ryan Bjerke & Elliot Bjerke
Reporter: None

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **VTrans Report:** Eric gave the VTrans annual report to the town office to keep on file so that it may be available to anyone to read.

Richard Lee – Flooding/Plugged Grate: Richard recused himself from the Board for this discussion. Richard and Lee Ann recently had flooding in their back yard and basement which has caused them to need a new furnace. They feel that the flooding occurred due to the town’s plowing that plugged a grate near their house. Eric read the response from the VLCT after an inquiry from the town office was made to see if the town’s insurance would cover the replacement of the Lee’s furnace. VLCT replied that the claims department would have to investigate to determine if the town was negligent in the plowing that caused the flooding. VLCT suggested that the town fill out a general loss liability notice form on the insurance’s web site and that the Lee’s contact their homeowner’s insurance carrier. Claude stated that the town did not plow the snow that caused the flooding and that it was the Lee’s own plow person that plowed the snow on the grate causing it to be plugged. Claude questioned why the Lee’s are asking the town to purchase them a new furnace when the town had nothing to do with the flooding. Both Claude and Lee Ann had taken pictures of the site, which Belinda asked that they both email them to the town. Tabled until the VLCT does their investigation.

Emergency Management – Mark Drew, Jim Holton, Bernard Earle, Ryan Bjerke:

Discussion on the recent need for the Town’s Emergency Management due to recent power outages and flooding. The road crew responded to the complaint of lack of signs for the road closure saying that adequate signs were placed, but that they were blown down due to the high winds. Belinda mentioned that if a road closure is necessary, that a detour plan should be in place. The closure was advertised on Front Porch Forum and the local radio station, WLVB. The set up of a robo call was discussed for the future. Motion by Belinda to appoint Ryan Bjerke as deputy to Mark for the Emergency Management team. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Eric and Mark will plan a meeting together in the near future and the Board is in hope that with Ryan added to the emergency management team that communication will be improved. Linda downloaded a form from Vermont 211’s

website called Citizens Assistance Registration for Emergencies (CARE) that will be available at Town Meeting and mailed out in the tax bills to all residents and it will be available on the town's web site and Front Porch Forum for residents to complete if they have a disability or special circumstances. Once Vermont 211 receives this any resident in need will be placed on this list who will be contacted in an emergency.

Discuss Flooding and North Wolcott Road Closure: It was mentioned that the highway department did very well managing their time between the road closure and the maintenance of all of the other roads during the recent North Wolcott road closure. Eric emailed Jim Cota from the State of Vermont for a process on how to deal with this road emergency. Jim mentioned that there is a state grant that the town can apply for to repair the road. Skip, during this busy time received one estimate from Manosh, who Jim stated, was a very reasonable estimate. Eric answered Dana Gravel's question as to why only Manosh was asked for an estimate by saying that the town is in a contract with Manosh and that Skip was told that the one estimate was reasonable by the state. Skip mentioned that due to quality and price, Manosh is the company that the town is in a contract with. Skip also stated that he and his co-workers were busy plowing and didn't have the time to get other estimates since Jim Cota said not to get any more estimates to go with the one reasonable estimate that Skip got from Manosh. Eric explained that this was a business decision on the part of the town and that he was comfortable with the process and how the town handled this emergency situation. Eric invited any contractor to submit a bid to the town this spring to permanently repair the road.

Approve the minutes of January 3rd: Motion by Kim to accept the minutes as read.
Seconded by Mike. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.

Comments from the Community: Belinda explained that the LCSD has helped the town partially fill out the ticket regarding the junk ordinance violation of Mr. Percy's building on Route 15. They are waiting to get Mr. Percy's social security number which is required to be on the ticket. The town has purchased the lot at the beginning of School Street at tax sale. If the town obtains possession, the Board plans to clean up the graffiti that has been sprayed on the end of one of the vacant mobile homes that is on this lot.

Linda – Update on January 3rd Actions: Linda explained that the 2nd lister applicant, Francine Rosenzweig, came in to the Town Office and spoke with Linda and explained that she is busy with her own home business. Linda also mentioned that currently the town has the amount of Listers needed. Linda showed the Board an existing land lease that the town currently has on file. It will be emailed to the rest of the Board for their review. Once this has been reviewed and commented on, a draft will be sent to the town's attorney, David Polow.

New Business:

- **Letter on Financial Condition of Transfer Station:** Eric read that letter to the Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation stating that the town is financially capable of covering all closing costs for the Transfer Station. This is for the annual requirement of the town's permit.

- **Possible Replacement Heater at Transfer Station:** Belinda and Bernard explained the recent problems that Transfer Station has had with their heater and that it had to close recently because of the furnace not working and the severe cold temperatures. The furnace had been worked on by a technician from Fred's the Friday before it broke down, then Bernard tried to repair it that Saturday morning. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to purchase and install a new furnace from Fred's. Seconded by Richard. Motion amended by Eric to not exceed the cost of \$810. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.
- **Appointment of LRSWMD Supervisor:** Discussion. Motion by Belinda to appoint Richard as the LRSWMD supervisor. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Richard was sworn in by Eric and both Eric and Richard signed the appointment. Belinda asked Richard to update the Selectboard after Town Meeting on the composting in Johnson.
- **Year to Date Financials:** Reviewed Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for the Town and the Transfer Station for July through December 2017.

Old Business:

- **Finalize Budget – Sign:** Reviewed and signed. Motion by Belinda to use \$22,000 from Class III construction and \$10,000 from Bridge Maintenance to pay for the North Wolcott Road emergency road repair. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Belinda recused herself from the discussion of salaries for town employees. Discussion. Motion by Kim to give each town employee a two percent raises effective July 1st, 2018. Seconded by Mike. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. Belinda recused. Motion by Belinda to approve the budget in the amount of \$1,333,094 to be presented at Town Meeting. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against.
- **Finalize Warning – Sign:** Reviewed and signed the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont to be held on March 6, 2018. Motion by Belinda to finalize the Warning for Town Meeting. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. Article 9 reads: Shall the voters authorize total general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,333,094 which \$1,024,385 shall be raised in taxes and \$308,709 by non-tax revenues?
- **Discussion on Norwich Solar Technology request:** The Board is in agreement with Norwich Solar Technology's preferred site and that it goes along with the Town Plan, but feel that at this time, it works against the town's interest, until the Board receives the certificate of public good for their solar project at the landfill. The Board feels that off takers could possibly be a problem as well the possible over burden on the Hardwick Electric Department. The Board did tell Norwich Solar Technology to contact Encore.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Review Email:** A one thousand dollar check has been received from Encore. Discussion. Motion by Kim to put the \$1000 deposit from Encore Redevelopment LLC in a separate restricted fund account for Solar. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. A second email was read by Eric regarding a coyote killing contest. Discussed. The Board will respond by thanking this person for their

comments and concerns, but as a governing body, there is nothing that the Board can do since this is on the state level.

- **Sign Orders & Payroll Orders:** Signed.
- **Town Hall Permit:** The Board approved a permit at the Town Hall for a funeral via email.
- **LCSD December Report:** Reviewed.
- **PACIF Grant & Scholarship Programs:** Belinda informed the Board that Skip has been working with the PACIF officer to get things completed. The loss prevention findings were reviewed.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against. The next *Selectboard Meeting* is scheduled for February 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.