

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 18, 2018

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard.
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes.

Members Present: Eric Furs, Kimberly Gravel, Michael Davidson, Jennifer Holton-Clapp
Members Absent: Richard Lee
Town Employees: Skip Patten
Public: Louis Ricciardello, Doug Sandvig, Lisa Gould, Alan Gould, Katy Black, Bill Cotton, Ginger Cotton, Kurt Klein, John Wheeler, Barbara von Schlegell, Dana Gravel, Bruce Wheeler

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Table & chair permit request. Motion by Eric to approve request to rent tables and chairs.
Seconded by Kim. Voting 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Fee is \$35 with a \$50 refundable deposit.

Email request of Derek Draper for a gate off West Hill Road tabled until the August meeting.
The Selectboard needs more information.

Outdoor Junk and Abandoned properties:

Lou Ricciardello expressed concern regarding abandoned properties within Wolcott that are becoming dumping grounds and are inhabited by squatters. Lou has contacted State agencies, but is concerned that Wolcott seems to be known for something it doesn't want to be known for. Lou suggested the Selectboard continue to follow aggressive action on the Cross Road property previously brought to the Board's attention, as well as other properties. Lou has contacted the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). Michael will contact the LCSO to request directed patrols of these properties.

Doug Sandvig presented the Selectboard with copies of the Wolcott Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles Ordinance, the Wolcott Solid Waste Ordinance, the Hardwick Civil Ordinance Regulating the Control of Solid Waste, Garbage, Junk, Junk Motor Vehicles and Trash Ordinance, and a spreadsheet he created comparing the ordinances. Sandvig expressed concerns regarding the wording and enforcement of the Wolcott ordinances. Kurt pointed out that the Selectboard amended the Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles Ordinance allowing no more than two instead of four junk vehicles. The Junk Ordinance Enforcement Committee has been looking at the Hardwick ordinance to see if a similar ordinance may be appropriate for Wolcott. Motion by Kim to have Jenn start a committee to address policy and procedure regarding junk. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Junk Ordinance Enforcement Committee:

A draft of a letter to Wolcott taxpayers addressing the topic of trash and junk was submitted to the Selectboard for review. Motion by Kim to approve sending the letter with minor changes.
Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. The letter will be included with the tax bills. Bill indicated the Committee is working on a letter for the Selectboard to send out to acknowledge receipt of complaints regarding junk. Bill pointed out there are many obstacles to effectively addressing junk as well as health issues. Bill emphasized that training is crucial. The

Vermont League of Cities and Towns can customize training to be conducted here in town. Jenn will check to see if funds are available for training.

School House Restoration Committee:

Chad Roy sent an email to the Selectboard stating the Committee would like to have a sale of items stored inside the old school house on August 4, with the proceeds going to the Committee fund account. The Wolcott Historical Society wants to have a fundraiser on August 18, and would like to allow people inside the school house. Eric will contact Chad with questions the Board has regarding the sale and liability insurance.

Comments from the Community:

Barbara von Schlegell, on West Hill, explained the importance of milkweed growing alongside our roads to the survival of Monarch butterflies. Barbara requested the Town Highway Department hold off on mowing the roadsides until late August, or into September. Skip stated the Highway Department will hold off mowing for as long as they can.

Lisa and Alan Gould, on East Hill, wished to express to the Selectboard the need for a dog ordinance as well as a protocol for reporting and record keeping when dogs have attacked people and/or their animals. Lisa and her dog have both been injured in dog attacks. They called the LCSO and were told to call the dog officer in Wolcott. They have filed formal complaints with the Town.

Katy Black, on East Hill, stated she had livestock killed by a dog last year. She stated the dog officer was quick to respond, but there were insufficient rules to follow. She believes if a loose dog kills livestock, then the dog's owner should be required to pay for the loss. Katy agrees there is a need for recordkeeping. Michael will investigate the loose dog issue and protocol and will follow up with Katy and the Goulds. This issue will be on the agenda for the August meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Michael to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting as well as the Minutes of the special meeting held June 21, 2018 as written. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Winter Sand Bids: *Kim recused herself from discussion and action on this item because she works for a company that submitted a bid.* The five bids received for winter sand were reviewed. Motion by Eric to accept the bid from Salvias for 6,000 cubic yards of road sand contingent upon Skip getting a suitable delivery date. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Kim).

Set Tax Rate: Based upon the Wolcott Grand List value, the Homestead tax rate is 2.2211 and Non-residential tax rate is 2.2305. Motion by Eric to approve the tax rates as computed. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Highway - Municipal Road General Permit and fees: The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has issued a municipal roads general permit for storm water discharges from municipal roads. The Town received a letter from Jim Ryan stating the Town is responsible for an administrative processing fee of \$240 by July 31, 2018. Motion by Eric to sign the Notice of Intent. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Lease Agreement - Curtis Lanphere: Issue tabled to allow Curtis time to secure insurance for his property prior to entering into the lease. Eric will follow up on wording of the lease with the Town attorney.

New Business:

A letter was received requesting the ability to enter into a monthly payment plan for 2017-2018 taxes due by Lynn Gribbin. Motion by Eric to accept the request. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

An email was received regarding hemp farming in Wolcott.

A Financial Management Questionnaire was completed by the Town Clerk. Motion by Kim to accept and sign the questionnaire contingent upon learning when and why the Clerk's signature stamp is used, and where the stamp is kept. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Old Business:

The Electric Vehicle charging station grant discussion is tabled to a later meeting.

No Selectboard members were available to attend an informational meeting regarding the possibility of high speed fiber optics for Wolcott.

The Town provided the Selectboard with a list of non-elected employees and their supervisors. Kim will follow up with questions.

Review Correspondence:

Payroll, special and monthly orders reviewed and approved.

Motion by Eric to sign the audit engagement letter. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein.

The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2018