

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

## Minutes

August 15, 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, Richard Lee  
Members Absent: Jennifer Holton-Clapp  
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Belinda Clegg, Bernard Earle  
Guests: Mary Clark, Lynnette Claudon  
Public: Bill Cotton, Kurt Klein, Doug Sandvig, Alan Gould, Lisa Gould, Lorraine Sweetsee, Leonard Percy

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Eric called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

### Amendments to the Agenda:

\*Letter received from a delinquent taxpayer requesting to enter into a payment plan. Motion by Eric to accept the payment plan as proposed. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**NBRC Wastewater Grant Application update:** Mary Clark, Environmental Program Manager with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) reported work is progressing on a project charter that will describe what work is going on. A document should be presented to the Selectboard soon. Mary will propose some dates for the Wolcott Selectboard to meet with other towns that are part of the wastewater project.

Lynette Claudon, Chief Pollution Control Design Engineer with VTDEC, reported that the grant request was for \$250,000. The actual award will be \$219,213. We will need a plan to either cut costs or seek additional funds. Paperwork for the grant should be signed in October. Lynette distributed a ten-page workbook for community leaders entitled, Organizing Village Wastewater Solutions. The purpose of the workbook is to help organize the Town's wastewater committee. The committee should be formed by October. Linda Martin reported Eric has volunteered to serve as the Selectboard member, Bruce Wheeler volunteered as a Planning Commission member, Linda will serve as the full-time Town employee representative, and Jim Mahoney will represent the MSI Group. Linda will post a notice on Front Porch Forum seeking an additional member to represent the village, and will set a date for a meeting around October 1. Lynette suggested the Selectboard have alternative representation to ensure the required volunteer hours are met.

**Douglas Sandvig – Solid Waste Ordinance:** Motion by Eric to amend the agenda by placing Doug before the Junk Ordinance Committee report. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Doug distributed to the Selectboard a letter he drafted that could serve as a sample letter the Selectboard could send to the owner of record of the property at 1449 Cross Road to enforce the Solid Waste

Ordinance. Doug reported that the Meyers dumpster full of trash remains in the driveway and refuse is scattered about the property.

Michael stated it is his understanding that the bank that owns the property is bankrupt. It is hoped that the bank will contact Bernard within a day or two with a plan on cleaning up the property. Meyers will not pick up the dumpster unless they get paid. The bank has been billed.

Doug suggested the Selectboard send to the bank a letter stating the Board has reasonable grounds to believe the bank is in violation of the Wolcott Solid Waste Ordinance to at least start the clock. If the bank has filed for bankruptcy, then a filing should be sent to the Town. Motion by Eric that the Selectboard has reasonable grounds to believe the bank is in violation of the Wolcott Solid Waste Ordinance, and to have the Town's attorney review Doug's letter and return to the Selectboard for approval, to be served on the owner of record of 1449 Cross Road. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Junk Ordinance Committee Update:** Belinda noted that the amendment to the Junk Ordinance changing the maximum number of junk vehicles from four to two goes into effect on Sunday, August 19. A meeting will be scheduled between the Committee and the Selectboard when a quorum can be reached. The Committee will present to the Selectboard information on properties on which complaints have been received. The Selectboard can then send a letter to the property owners. Jenn is working with the Committee on detailing the procedure. Bill emphasized that training is available through Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT). Kim agreed there is a lot of training available. Belinda indicated Jenn is also looking at the Hardwick Ordinance regarding solid waste and junk to see if that can be worded to fit Wolcott. Attention is also being given to what can be done about abandoned buildings.

**Dog Bite Reporting Procedures:** There was a review of the procedures followed once Lisa Gould reported to the Town that she and her dog were bit by a dog while walking on East Hill Road. Lisa, Belinda and Bernard provided information to the Board. Alan Gould feels the wording of the Ordinance needs to be improved. The Selectboard has a copy of a model ordinance from VLCT. Lisa does not want anyone to go through what she has gone through. Michael will work with Jenn on the wording of the Ordinance. Lisa is happy to provide input. The goal is to come up with a clear process to be followed on a consistent basis. Eric suggested a committee may need to be formed, and keep the public involved.

**Leonard and Kimberly Percy:** Leonard stated they are delinquent on taxes for two properties, and proposed a payment plan. Motion by Eric to approve a payment plan of \$100 per month for each of the two properties. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. If they sell some properties, then they will catch up sooner.

Leonard and Kimberly have taken over Fred Martin's property, the New & Used store. However, they do not own the contents. Leonard was told that the outside of his properties need to be cleaned up. Leonard was reminded that the Selectboard had sent a certified letter to both him and Fred on September 7, 2017 about outdoor cleanup. Leonard maintains he is continuing to clean up the Morey Hill properties. Motion by Eric for the Junk Ordinance Committee to provide the Selectboard with a violation letter to be sent to the Percy's regarding cleanup outside the New & Used store. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Reed Road Turnaround** [Kim recused herself for this discussion item.]

Kim reminded the Board that at the December 2, 2015 Selectboard meeting, the Board had approved a turnaround for Reed Road that was to be done immediately. There was an indication the work would be done in the spring of 2016 and the road would be maintained in the winter. Kim stated the work has not yet been done, and the road has not been maintained in the winters. Eric will contact Skip to see that the work is done as soon as possible.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Richard to approve the Minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting as written. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Comments from the Community:**

\*Bill asked about the schedule for mowing alongside the roads. The understanding is Skip needs to start mowing before the end of August.

\*Belinda gave an update on the possibility of purchasing solar powered electronic speed limit signs through the LCSO. The cost per unit was to be reduced if we joined in the order with Hyde Park and Johnson. Those towns want 25 mph signs and Wolcott would need 35 mph signs in the village. Eric will email the Sheriff and the Selectboard to discuss options before Belinda meets with the Sheriff on August 27.

**Old Business:**

\*Eric has been following up on Derek Draper's request for a gate across West Hill Road, by Sand Hill. Kurt Klein, of West Hill, said there should not be a gate across the road as that is how many citizens access the ponds and the campgrounds at the end of the road. A gate across the road would result in many citizens having to travel several miles to access the area from Hyde Park. Matter tabled.

\*Curtis Lanphere is seeking homeowners insurance prior to entering into a lease with the Town.

**New Business:**

\*The Historical Society requested use of the Town Offices and gazebo for their fundraiser on August 18. Motion by Kim to approve the Committee's celebration on August 18. The request for tours of the old schoolhouse was denied due to potential liability issues. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

\*A request was made to make payments on delinquent taxes. Motion by Eric to approve a plan with a minimum payment of \$25 per month. If that is not acceptable, then the Board will entertain another payment schedule. The matter will be revisited in December, 2018. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

\*The Selectboard reviewed applications for transfer station attendant. Shelby Clegg will work through August 18.

\*Removal of Fort Hill Road bridge. Motion by Eric for the Board to sign the letter of support for removal of the bridge. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Review Correspondence:**

\*Request for Town Hall permits. Motion by Kim to approve the request for Justice for Dogs flea market for October 4, 5, 6. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. No alcohol will be served.  
Request for dates for Wolcott Ballet tabled.

\*LCSD activity report reviewed.

\*VLCT is offering a Municipal Budget Workshop in Castleton on October 8.

**Tour of School House:** Cancelled.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Kim to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein.

*The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2018*