

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes January 2, 2019

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

Present: Eric Furs, Michael Davidson, Jennifer Holton-Clapp, Richard Lee
Absent: Kimberly Gravel
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Belinda Clegg
Public: Kurt Klein, Bill Cotten

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) contacted Eric about an issue involving school children being picked up by the bus on the other side of the School Street Bridge. Eric will email Jim Cota with VTrans as a follow-up.

The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) is seeking input from Wolcott by February 1 on whether we wish to have a designated Regionally Significant Ridgeline. Such a designation would limit possible development in the future. Following discussion, the consensus is Wolcott does not have a ridge line that would fall into this category.

Comments from the Community: On behalf of the Junk Ordinance Committee, Bill Cotten inquired as to the status of letters that were to be sent to landowners for whom complaints had been received. The letters have been sent.

Bill commented on restrictions placed on properties that are designated as “camps” and particularly, the wastewater requirements. Bill inquired about enforcement of these restrictions. He expressed a desire to see all such property owners treated the same.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Selectboard meeting as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Town Clerk Budget: Linda presented a written budget proposal. Each line item was discussed. The overall budget as proposed is approximately \$9,000 less than last year’s budget amount. That is due primarily to cost savings as a result of insurance changes as discussed at the December 19, 2018 Selectboard meeting. Motion by Michael to accept the proposed budget as submitted. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Bill suggested to the Board that they may wish to consider moving some funds to the Selectboard budget for an Administrative Assistant position in the future.

Town Budget: Linda distributed to the Selectboard a multi-page document for discussion outlining the 2019-2020 proposed budget as it will appear in the Town Report. The draft includes proposed budgets for individual departments already accepted by the Selectboard. Other figures still need to be determined and included before the January, 23 deadline. Also distributed to the Board for review was the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for July, 2017 through June, 2018 and July 2018 to present.

Review Draft Warning: A draft Warning for the Annual Town Meeting that will be held March 5, 2019 was distributed for discussion. This is still a working document. The Selectboard is considering the creation of a capitol fund for future projects. If so, that would be included in the Warning.

Adoption of changes to the Wolcott Dog Ordinance: Michael distributed to Board members copies of a proposed Dog Ordinance he has been working on for Wolcott. Michael explained that this would not be an amendment to our current Ordinance, but would be a completely new Ordinance. The proposed Ordinance is identical to the Ordinances adopted by Johnson and Hyde Park. The proposed Ordinance addresses enforcement and penalties. Selectboard members will review the document and determine by the January 16, 2019 meeting whether to proceed with the adoption process.

New Business:

Review & Sign Orders: Done.

Receipt of Audit: The firm that conducted the Town audit submitted their final report. This will be available on the Town website for the public review.

Old Business:

Lamoille County Conservation Request: Jenn confirmed that should the Town obtain a \$60 membership, the membership card could be held at the Wolcott Library and checked out for use by Wolcott citizens. Motion by Eric to pay the \$60 fee for the LCC membership card to be available for use by Wolcott residents through the Wolcott Library. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Tax Sale Property - Ed Ledoux: Motion by Eric for the Selectboard to instruct Linda to sign the deed on behalf of the Town for the property formerly owned by Ed Ledoux, but lost through Tax Sale. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Eric will follow up with attorney David Polow on eviction proceedings.

Review Correspondence:

Final Budget Meeting Notice for Lamoille Court House: The budget amounts were received.

2018 Equalization Study Results: The Division of Property Valuation & Review (PVR) conducts an annual Equalization Study of all municipal grand lists. Vermont requires property to be assessed at 100% fair market value. If the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) falls below 80%, the Town must conduct a full reappraisal. Wolcott's 2018 CLA is 100.53 so is well within range.

Historic Preservation Grant: In a letter dated December 24, 2018, the Selectboard was informed that the grant request submitted by the Schoolhouse Restoration Committee under the Historic Preservation Act was not accepted for funding. The Committee was encouraged to resubmit. The Selectboard had allocated \$20,000 towards the schoolhouse restoration project if the grant had been approved. Motion by Eric to move the previously allocated \$20,000 back to the fund balance since the condition that the grant be accepted was not met. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Richard.
Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

The next Selectboard Meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2019