

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes June 5, 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, Kimberly Gravel,
Richard Lee
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Bernard Earle, Duncan Hastings
Public: Louis Ricciardello, Bill Cotten, Kurt Klein, Lucien Gravel
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda

East Hill Road culvert project: As a follow-up to the discussion at the May 15, 2019 meeting, Eric authorized Skip Patten to purchase, on behalf of the Town, the pipe arch needed for the project. This is a cost saving measure.

Town Administrator Position - Update: Duncan reported that he and Linda are preparing a detailed report for the Selectboard on how any budget surplus realized at the end of June may be spent. Following that, a Warning can be prepared for the Special Town meeting. August 14 is the target date for the meeting. It was suggested there could be an informational meeting held two or three weeks prior to the Special Town meeting. The Selectboard can present information on the need for the Town Administrator position, and the public can ask questions.

Comments from the Community: Bernard reported that he attended a court proceeding that day on a dog issue. The next court date for this case is scheduled for October 7.

Approval of Minutes

(1) Added to the Minutes of May 15, 2019, under Ordinance Committee - Update, at the end of the first paragraph: "The Selectboard asked to receive a copy of the proposed Solid Waste Ordinance prior to it being submitted to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLTC) legal department for review." (2) Amend the first part of the Motion in the third paragraph under Town Hall Permits to read: "Motion by Eric to approve the request but table the matter until the proper form is obtained." Motion by Michael to approve the Minutes of the May 15 meeting as amended. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Louis Ricciardello - Suggestions for Community Involvement: Louis provided to board members a written list of ways in which members of the community can get together allowing them to get to know their neighbors better. It was pointed out that the Historical Society is planning another event this year. Louis suggested, for example, an event where the Library Board, the Selectboard, the School Board, and the Town could set up tables and citizens could talk to them. Coffee and donuts could be served, making it a social event. It was suggested there could be a half-year Town Meeting, rather than just the annual event. Louis stated he would like to see Wolcott residents get together weekly. The closest senior center is in Morrisville. It was mentioned that Elmore offers bingo in the summers. Louis feels the suggestions he outlined for social involvement could result in a sense of community pride. Citizens have complained about the large number of beer cans along East Hill Road. Eric pointed out that the Sheriff's Office can be called to conduct a late night patrol.

Ordinance Committee - Update: Kurt stated a copy of the proposed Solid Waste Ordinance was not sent to the Selectboard because some edits need to be made first. The board was updated on the number of complaints that have been filed, and how many landowners have complied. There is one pending extension, and three potential ticketing violations. Bill stated the

Committee would like additional members. He pointed out there are currently no women on the committee.

Linda Martin - Assistant Clerk Position: Linda stated she has received several applications for the position and is in the process of conducting interviews. As advertised, the salary for the 32 hour per week position is \$16.50 per hour. Following a 90-day probationary period, the salary would be \$16.75. Linda needs to prepare an employee contract offering a certain salary and benefits. Motion by Jenn to authorize Linda to offer the proposed salary and benefits to include Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) insurance coverage as was offered previously for the position, as long as it fits within the current budget. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Linda stated that she had attended a workshop earlier in the day. She learned that three towns: Marshfield, Randolph, and Windsor, offer to their full-time employees over the age of 65 an insurance package as Linda had originally presented to the board after she was forced off BCBS coverage. Linda said she spoke with an attorney, because she feels this health care issue could be age discrimination, and that she is not being treated equitably. Linda asked that the Selectboard reconsider her previous proposal on health care. Eric said the board ordered a study that had been done on neighboring towns and the board will start there. Linda pointed out that Skip's insurance coverage will soon need to be addressed too. Motion by Eric to table discussion regarding health insurance. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. Eric stated the board will wait until they receive the study. Eric stated he does not know when the results of the study are due. Eric said the board had made a motion to spend \$75 dollars to get the study. Linda said that does not appear in the Minutes. Linda stated the three Towns she referenced earlier are paying for Medicare Parts B and D, the supplemental insurance for the employee, and their spouse. Richard pointed out the Town is saving money with her present insurance coverage. Jenn recognizes that equity is a concern, but if the Town has fewer than 20 employees, the law says they can handle it as they did. Linda stated that she feels the board is not treating her equally as a Town employee. Jenn said no one on the board has the time to dedicate or to investigate, and do not have the expertise to figure out insurance. The board is paying \$75 to get a survey and is trying to get a Town Administrator who would be tasked with the duty to figure this out. The board cannot do it. Linda would like to have more of a conversation on how the board is moving forward. Eric recommended this be put on a future Agenda in order to have this conversation.

New Business:

Tax Sale, 7/9/2019 Designee: The board needs to designate someone to represent the Town at the upcoming tax sale. Motion by Eric to have Linda serve in that capacity. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs: Bernard, as Animal Control Officer, noted there are over 100 dogs still unlicensed in Wolcott. Motion by Kim for the board to sign the Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Four-wheelers - Open Town Roads: Bernard stated Danny Hale would like to address the Selectboard on the issue of four-wheelers using certain Class 4 roads to allow travel to Montpelier and the NEK for example. It was pointed out that there has been opposition to this proposal many times in the past. The board is open to the presentation at a future meeting contingent upon Skip being present.

Coin Drop: Motion by Kim to approve the Wolcott Fire Department conducting a coin drop on Rt. 15 in Wolcott over the Labor Day weekend. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. There is insurance coverage. This is an annual fundraiser for the Fire Department.

Morristown-Wolcott STP FPAV (22) Pre-construction Conference, 6/7/2019: Received.

FY19-20 Contracts with LCSD: Motion by Eric to sign the contracts that were voted upon favorably at the 2019 Town Meeting. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Vermont Microcell Interest Survey: Eric will respond to the survey which is seeking input from Towns with limited cell service.

Unfinished Business

Town Property on East Hill Road: Eric communicated with the Town attorney who will begin an eviction proceeding in August.

Permit for Use of tables and chairs: Motion by Eric to sign the standardized form for the rental of 80 chairs for \$60 for a wedding in August as approved at the May 15 meeting. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. Bernard will continue the procedure of checking on the condition of the chairs prior to their pickup, and upon return. There is a \$50 security deposit.

Transfer Station - Update: Richard will again talk to the attendant about the procedure for ringing up transactions. It was suggested Richard show the attendant a copy of the Auditor's report to impress upon him the level of concern. Richard will spend the Sunday shift with the attendant, or will visit the attendant the following weekend. Bernard reported that last Sunday at the transfer station he observed two metal posts were broken. He has purchased new posts and will replace the broken ones.

Craftsbury Academy use of Wolcott town ball field: Eric stated he cannot confirm when the ball field is being used and when it is not. It is being used for pickup games. The men's league is not using the field this year. The board may wish to revisit the fee schedule for next year.

Bill Cotten appointment to Planning Commission: At the May 15 meeting, the board appointed Bill Cotten to a term on the Planning Commission with an expiration of 2021. That term is not available, and needs to be 2020 or 2022. Bill stated he would prefer to serve the term that expires 2020.

Review Correspondence

Sign Payroll and other Orders: Done

US Dept. of Commerce, US Census Bureau: Forwarded to the Zoning Administrator to reply.

VLTC News: Received.

At 7:53 p.m., Motion by Kim to enter into Executive Session based upon 1 VSA Section 313 (6) that refers to records exempt from the access to public records. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: All in favor.

Executive Session ended at 8:12 p.m. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be June 19, 2019