

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
July 17, 2019**

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

Present: Eric Furs, Jennifer Holton-Clapp, Michael Davidson  
Absent: Kimberly Gravel, Richard Lee  
Town Employees: Skip Patten  
Guest: Nigel Friend  
Public: Chad Roy, Linda Brady, Monica Cross, Todd Harris, Bill Cotten, Kurt Klein  
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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Eric called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Comments from the Community**

Bill Cotten asked when eviction proceedings will begin on the property located on East Hill Road that is now owned by the Town. Eric stated the Town attorney can devote time to the matter in the fall.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Minutes of July 3, Meeting:** Motion by Jenn to approve the Minutes of the July 3 Selectboard meeting as written. Second by Eric. Voting: All in favor.

**Minutes of July 10 Informational Meeting:** Added to the response to the question, "What impact will the TA position have on the budget and taxes after this fiscal year?" is: Eric stated the board is finding money. Two options were considered: 1) sending tax bills out late, or 2) sending out an additional tax bill. Eric stated Linda wants tax bills to be mailed out when they typically have been in past years. The Selectboard did not like the second option.

In the fourth line of the second page, "\$40,000" is amended to: "\$20,000 of the reserve could go towards the TA position".

Motion by Jenn to approve the Minutes of the July 10 Informational meeting as amended. Second by Eric. Voting: All in favor.

**Bids for Roadside Mowing and Sand**

Skip, Highway Foreman, was present for the opening of the bids. Two bids were received for sand. The low bid was submitted by Salvas Paving of Stowe. Skip noted that last year sand was purchased from Salvas. Eric noted there is less money budgeted for sand this year than last year. Motion by Eric to award the sand contract to Salvas. Second by Michael. Voting: All in favor. Two bids were received for roadside mowing. HC Property Management was the low bid, and can start any time. Motion by Eric to award the roadside mowing contract to HC Property Management. Second by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

It was noted that solar speed signs will be set up on Town Hill Road and in the North Wolcott Village.

## **Chad Roy - Schoolhouse Restoration Committee**

Chad and Linda Brady were present on behalf of the Committee. Chad gave an overview of the work the Committee has been doing recently. They have received two engineering reports along with estimates for roof repair. One from DeWolfe Engineering Associates in Montpelier, and another from Mumley Engineering, Inc. in Stowe. After reviewing the engineering reports, the Committee passed the information on to the board. The architectural report that was received three years ago is still available for review on the Town website. Michael asked about the wastewater system for the Schoolhouse. Chad believes it is connected with the system for Town Office. Eric stated the Selectboard can email with Chad as follow-up and figure out next steps. Eric wants the board to receive all information presented to them a couple of weeks in advance of it being discussed at an open meeting.

Linda attended a Preservation Trust of Vermont retreat July 16 & 17 in Grand Isle. Chad stated the Committee is discussing grant applications and will be looking to the Selectboard for the required matching funds. Chad reported that Monica Cross resigned from the Committee. Chad thanked Monica for her work. Monica noted that the Wolcott Historical Society raised about \$1,900 at their fundraiser last year. Monica wants to collaborate with the Schoolhouse Committee in the future and will assist with grant writing. The Schoolhouse Restoration Committee is seeking new members.

## **Monica Cross - Research on decision-making processes**

Monica noted that Richard Lee wondered what other Vermont towns with fewer than 20 employees are doing regarding health care coverage for full-time employees who are age 65 or older. Monica did some research and gathered her findings into a nine-page packet that was distributed to board members and others in attendance. Monica conducted a survey of 17 towns asking about their health care benefits and compiled the information into a chart. The packet also contains definitions of "employee," U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) discrimination laws, definition of "public office," a list of Town of Wolcott employees, Social Security regulations for employers, a summary of her discussions with Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS), and information regarding Vermont State employees. The last page regarding key questions employees turning 65 should consider when deciding on their health care coverage needs, was read aloud. Eric stated it was a lot of information to put before the board, but that the document would be put in the Minutes and added to the record. Eric stated that since he has been on the board, the board has never made decisions about health insurance; it was up to the Town's benefits manager. Michael stated all of the Town's policies are antiquated and need to be upgraded. Jenn does not understand how the Town is discriminating. Monica said the information was being presented to the board for their consideration; she was not looking for a decision. Kurt pointed out that a key issue seems to be whether the Town has more than 20 employees. Monica suggested the board must follow the federal definition of employee rather than the Town policy.

## **New Business:**

**Internal Financial Controls:** Motion by Eric to have the board sign to acknowledge receipt of the questionnaire. Second by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

**Development Review Board (DRB) - Vacancies:** John Phelps tendered his resignation from the Board on July 10. The Board needs a minimum of five members. Motion by Michael to appoint Bill Cotten to serve the remainder of the term on the DRB expiring in 2021. Second by Jenn. Motion by Eric to amend the Motion by also appointing Michael Davidson to the DRB. Second by Jenn. Voting: All in favor.

**Substantial Completion of North Wolcott Road Repairs Certificate:** Eric noted the North Wolcott Road project is 95% complete. Motion by Eric for the board to sign the Certificate. Second by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Depot Lease - Pike Industries:** Nigel Friend, representing Pike Industries, asked the board to provide to him signed leases for the bus barn and the depot building that he can take to his financial officer. The leases will run from July 15 to November 15, 2019, with a month-to-month option after that. Rent for both will be \$1,200 per month. Eric will email the signed leases to Nigel.

**Confirmation of Appointment to LCPC Board:** The board signed the document confirming appointment of Maxwell English to the LCPC Board.

**Review Correspondence:**

**Sign Payroll and Other Orders:** Deferred to Kim.

**Sheriff's Department - June Report:** Received.

**VLCT News - July edition:** Received.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Second by Jenn. Voting: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*The next regular Selectboard Meeting - August 7, 2019  
Special Town Meeting - August 14, 2019*