

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 21, 2019**

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

Present: Eric Furs, Kimberly Gravel, Richard Lee, Michael Davidson
Absent: Jennifer Holton-Clapp
Town Employees: Skip Patten, Bernard Earle
Public: Kurt Klein, Sally Martin, Alyssa Martin, Lucien Gravel, Kurt Billings, Karen McKee, Marquis Houle, Lou Riccardello, Bill Cotten, Judy Ward, Robert Harris, Mary Harris, Doug Sandvig, John Wheeler
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Pinnacle Lane as Town Highway: Marquis Houle sought a correction to one of the conditions to be addressed in order for Pinnacle Lane to be taken over by the Town. The document had already been signed by the Selectboard. Motion by Eric to amend condition (e) to read 3 inches of crush and run gravel to be in place from corner 1 to corner 2. Amended by Michael to include "if deemed necessary." Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor. Kim abstained.

Comments from the Community:

Lou Riccardello suggested the board extend an invitation to invite 5th and 6th graders to a Selectboard meeting to see how the Town is run. It could be on a school day or even a Saturday. Ben & Jerry's might supply ice cream, or prizes could be considered. Our State representatives could be invited to attend as well. Eric said that was a good idea, and he would follow up on it.

Sally Martin questioned what could be done about items left along the roadsides marked as "free." She cited as an example an item that was apparently dropped off in the right-of-way along Elmore Pond Road some time ago. Kurt Klein stated free items are not specifically addressed in the Junk Ordinance. Suggestions were made. Kurt will follow up.

Kurt Billings asked the board to explain the purpose of the Wastewater Committee. Kurt Billings would like to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Robert Harris suggested the board give Claude Cross a letter of appreciation for the work he did as a member of the road crew. He pointed out that the Town of Elmore road crew took Claude out for breakfast.

Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2019: Motion by Eric to approve the August 7 Minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor. Kim abstained.

Road Crew Staffing: An application for the road crew was reviewed by the board. Skip will contact the applicant to invite him for a ride-along and let Eric know how it goes. Skip reported he has reached out to potential road crew members for Wolcott, but has received negative

feedback due to the low wage offered. There was some discussion about Jim Paradee grading roads. Additional advertising for crew members was also discussed.

Lucien Gravel, who has served as Road Commissioner in the past, offered to serve as Road Commissioner to help during the crisis, but not forever. Lucien would try to find people to fill the vacant spots, and to ensure the roads get graded. Skip said he has found that he trains people only to have them leave for higher paying jobs. Michael motioned to appoint Lucien Gravel as Road Commissioner. Lucien stated he wants to be compensated, paid mileage, and be reimbursed for expenses. There was some discussion about Lucien having checked on the quality of sand at Salvas on behalf of the Town. It was suggested the board wait to see what happens with the applicant before Lucien is hired. It was also suggested the board may need to increase the salary for the road crew in order to compete with surrounding towns. It was suggested the positions be advertised online, such as LinkedIn and [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). Eric stated the board will work on Lucien's pay later.

Eric stated the status quo has not been working. Hiring Lucien is an opportunity. A road grant was lost because no one was working on it. It was suggested a coordinator is needed. Michael rescinded his prior motion. Motion by Michael to hire Lucien Gravel as Road Commissioner. Amended by Eric to add that Lucien's employment status be contingent upon an agreement on compensation. Seconded by Eric. Voting: Michael and Eric in favor, Richard opposed. Kim recused herself based on family relationship. Motion passed. Skip stated he wants a raise. Michael stated the board will do some research and address compensation for Skip and Lucien at the September 4 board meeting.

School House Restoration Committee: Tabled at request of the Committee.

Ordinance Committee: Kurt Klein stated that as the enforcement officer, he would like to attend a presentation on Local Ordinance Enforcement at the VLCT Town Fair in Killington on October 2. Kurt will attend other sessions offered that day as well, and will report back to the board. Motion by Richard to authorize payment of \$65 for tuition from the Selectboard/Town training budget. Richard amended his Motion to include reimbursement for mileage. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Bill Cotten reported that the Ordinance Committee had a productive meeting with State Representative, Dan Noyes present. Dan followed up on some issues brought up at their meeting. Bill can send an email to the board summarizing what took place and email a copy to Dan. Bill suggested the board invite Dan Noyes and Matt Hill, our other State Representative, to a Selectboard meeting prior to the start of the next legislative session. Eric pointed out that Dan had been present for the August 14 Special Town Meeting.

New Business:

Tax Sale Attorney: According to Linda Martin, Dick Sargent, who has handled tax sales for the Town, is retiring. Therefore, Linda will not be submitting names of delinquent taxpayers to the board for tax sale. Kim stated the Town needs to find another attorney to handle tax sales.

LCPC Meeting - High Speed Internet: It was pointed out that high speed internet is important for the economic development of Wolcott. The board stated that Wolcott will have a representative at the September 16 meeting.

VLCT Annual Business Meeting - Delegate Designation Form: Tabled.

Unfinished Business:

Wild Branch Tributary Restoration Project: Motion by Eric to approve for signature the document pertaining to the project unless an issue is discovered upon subsequent review. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Flower pot along Vt Rt 15: It was suggested the flower pots not be placed in the parking lot since the lot is used for vehicles to turn around. Eric explained the pots serve as a barrier to help protect children who take ballet lessons in the old Town Hall. Kim will call the elementary school art department to discuss painting of the flower pots.

Town Road and Bridge Standards: The State was seeking information by July 31 on whether Towns would comply with the new standards. The State will no longer recognize former Town standards. It was pointed out that if Wolcott does not agree to adhere to sections 1, 2 & 3 of the new standards, the Town may not be eligible for State reimbursement funds, or Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund money if there was a flood. Michael stated some towns are foregoing the new standards because they find it cost prohibitive. The Town can still respond to the State. The board will review the document, and Eric will follow up.

Other:

Eric reported that the local Eagle Scouts may take on as a project the installation of reflective 911 signs in Town. Also, the two solar speed signs the Town has obtained need to be installed and set up by an electrician. Claude Cross created a rake to be used to move items around in the bins at the transfer station, thereby increasing efficiency. It was noted there had been recent bear activity at the transfer station resulting in quite a mess from the uncovered bins. Ideas are being considered for preparation of the next Town Report. There has been some discussion with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to create a fishing pad along the river.

Review Correspondence:

North Wolcott Road Project: Motion by Eric to sign off on the Town's portion of the project for a reimbursement of \$160,487.45. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Sign Payroll and other Orders: Done.

Transfer Station Audit Sheets: Reviewed.

Sheriff's Department - July Report: Received.

VLCT News - August, 2019: Received.

VLCT - Town Fair, October 2-3, Killington: Brochure received.

Lamoille Economic Dev. Corp - Annual Luncheon, October 17: Save the date card received.

Town Hall Lease Agreement: Motion by Kim to approve for signature the annual lease agreement, as written, for rental of 33 Town Hall by the Wolcott Ballet for \$350 per month. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Town Hall Rental: Motion by Kim to approve rental of Town Hall for a birthday party on September 28 from 2:00 to 4:00. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed. No alcohol will be served.

Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

The next regular Selectboard Meeting - September 4, 2019