

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
November 6, 2019**

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

Present: Eric Furs, Kim Gravel, Richard Lee, Jenn Holton-Clapp, Michael Davidson  
Town Employees: Lucien Gravel, Deborah Klein  
Guests: Rob Moore, Scott Riegel, LCPC  
Public: Jim Holton, Daniel Moseley, Bessie Martin, Kurt Klein, Sally Martin, Karen McKee, Kurt Billings, Diane Olson, Robert Harris, Mary Harris, Judy Ward, Bill Cotten, Cindy Lowell, Dave Holton, Ryan Bjerke, Monica Cross,  
Keith Cochran, Ruthanna Demag, Deb Ward, Ken Haslam  
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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The meeting was called to order by Eric at 6:06 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Motion by Eric to add a presentation by Rob Moore, and a discussion of a proposal for road repairs from East Engineering to the Agenda. Seconded by Kim. Voting: All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2019:** Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

**Rob Moore, LCPC - Road Erosion Inventory Project:** Rob Moore, Regional Transportation Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission, updated the board on how the road inventory being done to comply with the Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) is progressing. Multiple documents were provided to board members to help explain the status. The condition of hydrologically connected roads within Wolcott is being assessed in 100 meter segments. So far 439 segments have been inventoried. A bit more than half of the connected segments need work. A five-year plan will be developed. All work is to be completed by 2036. The inventory of culverts has been completed. The goal of the MRGP is to preserve water quality. The issue on the local level is to preserve assets. Rob will update the board again at a December meeting.

**New Business:**

**Storm Damage:** Several roads in Wolcott and North Wolcott were damaged as a result of the heavy rains received during the night of October 31. Most notably, North Wolcott Road, Brook Road, Foss Road and Elmore Pond Road. For the most part, roads are now passable, but work remains to be done. The Highway crew was thanked for the work they did over the weekend. Concern was expressed about the concrete barriers being set up too close to the edge of the damage on North Wolcott Road. It was suggested they be moved back and the road widened to allow vehicles to pass.

Lucien stated two of the Town trucks are ready for plowing snow. Another one needs work done before it can spread sand. New chains have been ordered for the tires. Salt was delivered today. Eric has provided his name as an emergency contact person with the Sheriff's Office.

Ryan Bjerke headed up the Emergency Management efforts on November 1. Ryan stated a review should be conducted to identify areas that need improvement. Communications was a major problem. A budget must be established to improve communication with citizens, the board, the Highway Department, and other agencies. Towns people need to be notified that Town Office can serve as a shelter, since there is a generator. Vulnerable folks need to be checked on. A pool of volunteers to man the shelter needs to be established. Ryan will prepare a report for the board. Michael will work with Ryan on these issues. The Fire Department maintains a list of individuals to check on in emergency situations, and they did so. It was suggested notices air on the local radio station.

Tyler Billingsly of East Engineering assessed the damage to North Wolcott Road on Monday. The board was presented with a proposal for road repairs from East Engineering. Tyler worked on the North Wolcott Road repairs the last time it was damaged. Motion by Eric to engage the services of East Engineering in the North Wolcott Road repair project. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Lucien stated Gravel Construction Co. is prepared to start work on road repairs this Friday on a time and materials basis. Audience members objected, citing a conflict of interest since Lucien's family operates Gravel Construction Co. It was pointed out there are eight contractors in Lamoille County capable of doing the work. Motion by Eric to have Tyler Billingsly of East Engineering put the work out for bid as soon as possible. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, Kim recused herself based on family connection. Sealed bids will be delivered to the Selectboard for review.

**Petition: Videotape of board meetings posted on Town website:** The board reviewed a Petition asking if Wolcott residents were in favor of having regular and special meetings of the Selectboard videotaped with the video posted on the Town's website for public viewing. The Petition received at least 70 signatures. Many residents are unable to attend board meetings due to schedule conflicts. Some folks prefer not to drive after dark. Should a board member have to miss a meeting, watching the videotape would be a good way to catch up on what was missed. Green Mountain Access Television will provide video equipment, training, and editing services for free. Deb Klein will follow up.

**Preventive Maintenance Agreement for generator:** Brook Field Service has been providing maintenance service on the Town Office generator. Motion by Eric to renew the agreement, Program 1, and pay before November 25 for the discounted price. Seconded by Kim. Voting: All in favor.

**PACIF Report:** The Town's insurer submitted a report with recommendations for increased safety at the Town Garage and the Depot building. Dave Holton volunteered to make improvements at the Town Garage. Signs have been ordered to designate which sand pile may be accessed by the public. Jim Holton stated that when the power went out, the generator at the Fire Department was not sufficient to open the door at both the Fire Department and the Town Garage. Lucien is having the Town Garage generator repaired.

#### **Comments from the Community:**

Concern was expressed that no one from the Selectboard attended the last meeting of the Wastewater Committee. Eric stated that Linda Martin is on the committee and that he serves as a liaison. He was unable to attend that night. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. The next meeting will be the first Monday in December at Town Office.

The board was asked if Wolcott has serious equipment issues. Lucien stated all of the equipment has been poorly maintained, but he believes the trucks are safe for the road crew to use. Road crews from other towns have said that in a pinch they will help us if they can. Viking has assessed the equipment. Kim acknowledged that work needs to be done. The board was asked if we have a contract for road services. Michael stated that was his preference, and he will consider it for next year.

**Unfinished Business:**

Motion by Kim to get a card and a \$100 gift card for Skip Patten in thanks for his years of service on the Highway Department. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

**Road Crew Staffing:** Two individuals have been hired full-time. Their starting salary is \$22 per hour with a fifty-cent increase after 90 days. They will be eligible for benefits in three months. Two other individuals are helping out on the road crew with a salary of \$30 per hour with no benefits.

**School Street Bridge - repair panel:** David Holton stated VTrans tightened four loose panels on the bridge.

**Town Road and Bridge Standards:** The work being done for the Road Erosion Inventory Project is the very first step towards these compliance standards.

**Town Hall Handicap Ramp:** Work needed on the ramp will be put out for bids.

**Winterizing Depot Building:** N.A. Manosh will examine the building on November 18 and make a recommendation on what needs to be done and the cost.

**Eviction Proceeding - Town Property on East Hill Road:** Eric will follow up.

**Sheriff's Office Response to Calls:** Michael stated the Lamoille County Sheriff will be present at the November 20 meeting to address concerns.

**Efficiency Vermont - energy audit:** Michael stated a review of the Town Office and Garage will be conducted by the end of November.

**Personnel Policy:** Following review by the legal department at Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), language will be added to the Town's personnel policy. Motion by Michael to add the following language to the personnel policy: "Effective October 1, 2019, any full time town employee who becomes eligible or is currently eligible for Medicare coverage, and chooses or currently has Medicare as their primary insurance, will have 100 percent of their Supplemental Medicare Premium paid directly to the insurer and their out of pocket expense for their Medicare Parts B, and D costs reimbursed. Also, if the full time employee had additional dependent coverage with the town prior to turning 65, the town will continue their coverage or pay/reimburse the employee for the cost of Medicare Supplemental and Part B and D for that dependent as well. In either case, the Town's health insurance cost for any employee 65 or older shall not exceed the cost it pays for any other employee's health insurance coverage based on the relevant category of individual and/or dependent coverage." Seconded by Kim. Voting: All in favor.

**Ordinance Committee - proposed amendments:** Kurt requested the board authorize sending the proposed amendments to VLCT legal department for review. Motion by Michael to advance the proposed amendments to the Junk and Solid Waste Ordinance to VLCT legal department for review. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. Kurt asked the board for authorization to attend a full-day enforcement officer training on December 4. Motion by Kim to authorize payment of registration fee and mileage. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. Bill Cotten pointed out there is a problem with dumping in Town; appliances, furniture, and garbage. Suggestions were offered by the audience and board. The Ordinance Committee will follow up on how best to address the issue.

**Review Correspondence:**

**Letter from Daniel & Margaret Moseley, Foss Road** - Received. Lucien will look at needed repairs to Foss Road.

**Transfer Station Audit Sheets:** These will be addressed during executive session.

**Sign Payroll and other Orders:** Done.

**VLCT: VERB & ACIF notices:** Received.

**Executive Session:** Motion by Kim to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters.  
Seconded by Jenn. Voting: All in favor. The board entered executive session at 8:01 p.m.

Following executive session, the board noted the Transfer Station audit sheets were reviewed. Richard will assist with cash out sheets, and all cash sheets will be signed off on by Richard and the Transfer Station employee.

The board opted to have only one insurance policy offered to all Town employees: Silver CHCD or whatever the current Town Office coverage is.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*The next regular Selectboard meeting - November 20, 2019*