

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes February 5, 2020

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

Present: Kim Gravel, Michael Davidson, Richard Lee, Eric Furs (arrived 6:09 p.m.)  
Absent: Jenn Holton-Clapp  
Town Employees: Lucien Gravel, Deborah Klein, Michael Shedd  
Public: Kurt Klein, Robert Harris, Bill Cotten, Monica Cross, Jane Melfy, Kurt Billings, Karen McKee, Diane Olson, Patrick Lacasse, Michel Lacasse  
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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Kim called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of January 22, 2020:** Motion by Michael to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 3 in favor. Subsequently in the meeting: Eric asked that on page 2, under Budget for 2020-2021, the last two sentences which read "Eric pointed out that the Town has lost employees who have worked here for decades. If there is a chance to reorganize the Town, he is for it" be stricken as it is just his opinion and is not worthy of the Minutes. Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as amended. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Jane Melfy - road sign:** If there is sufficient money in the Highway budget, Jane is requesting a universal horse and rider sign be erected on Elmore Pond Road near Douglas Road where her daughter often rides her horse. The board will gather information on the cost, and will address at the next meeting.

**Highway Commissioner Report:** Lucien is checking the Wild Branch River area to see what work needs to be done. The board reviewed a document regarding work that needs to be done on Brook Road as part of the emergency response following the Halloween storm. Motion by Kim to authorize \$6,000 for repairs to Brook Road. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor. It was pointed out that the solar speed sign on North Wolcott Road is not working. Lucien will follow up. Lucien stated Town Hill Road was graded and that the crew will do more roads as they can. Lucien and Dillan attended a recent class hosted by Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the posting of weight limit signs. These signs are usually posted the first part of March. Eric reported he received positive feedback regarding plowing from a citizen on Baldwin Brook Road.

**Comments from the Community:** The question was asked whether the road crew is down one person, and if there are candidates available. Lucien replied in the affirmative and said Jim Paradee is filling in when it snows. Lucien is going through the applicants file again and will fill the position when he can.

A question was asked about the \$10,000 that appears in the proposed budget for the Highway Department for temporary help, and if that money is for Lucien to train the road foreman. It was understood that Lucien planned to work only until Town Meeting day, yet the new budget does not go into effect until July 1, 2020. Lucien stated he is not working full-time now, but is working

on FEMA reimbursement paperwork. Eric stated that if in the long term there is a Town Administrator (TA), then that money from the Highway Department could go towards the salary of the TA for the work they do on behalf of the Highway Department. It was suggested the line item be better identified in the budget.

The board was asked whether the Assistant Town Clerk is aware that the salary for that position has been decreased by \$10,000 in the next fiscal year. Michael pointed out that there is an increase in the number of hours for the Town Clerk and Treasurer, so there should not be as much need for an Assistant Town Clerk. If at Town Meeting the same person is elected for both Town Clerk and Treasurer, a motion can be made from the floor to adjust the salaries budgeted for those two positions. It was also pointed out that the current Assistant Town Clerk's job will technically end at the time of Linda's retirement. It would be up to the next Town Clerk to determine who they will hire for that position.

Bill Cotten provided an update on the Planning Commission. They recently met with the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to discuss properties that lie within the flood plain. Of the 86 properties, only 13 have flood insurance. Another recent meeting addressed broadband coverage for improved internet service in rural areas. Craftsbury will be voting on whether to join a regional district. The group is also looking at what Elmore has for internet options. On February 27 there will be an LCPC meeting in Johnson with presenters from various Towns and regions reporting on their status. The Planning Commission will report back to the board in late spring.

**New Business:**

**U.S. Census Bureau - Boundary Validation Program:** The Census Bureau is requesting the Town to confirm its geographical boundaries prior to the census being conducted. Motion by Eric to ask Tom Martin, as Zoning Administrator, to review the information sent by the Census Bureau and respond accordingly. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Increase in recycling tip fee:** The board received a letter from Casella indicating the tip fee for recycling at the Chittenden Solid Waste District is increasing \$15 per ton. The tip fee for recyclables at the Hyde Park Transfer Station will increase \$15 per ton effective March 2. Richard will check with other towns, follow up on possible options, and report back.

**Liquor Control - Wolcott Store liquor permit:** Motion by Kim to approve the 2020 liquor permit for the Wolcott Store. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Adoption of 2019 Road Standards:** FEMA should reimburse the Town up to 75% for qualifying road repairs. The State will reimburse the Town an additional 12.5% if the Town has agreed to the 2019 Road Standards. Lucien recommends the Town adopt the standards. It was pointed out there may be a lot of hidden things in the standards, and that the Town cannot opt out once the standards are adopted. Motion by Michael to adopt the 2019 Road Standards. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, Kim voted no because she has not fully read the standards. Motion carried.

**Certificate of Highway Mileage:** The board reviewed the Certificate of Highway Mileage. This year the Town has added .75 mile of Class 3 road and subtracted .45 mile of Class 4 road. Motion by Eric to accept the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Candidates Night - February 25:** A Candidates Night will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Office for candidates running for Town Moderator, Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Selectboard. The event will be videotaped and made available for viewing on the Town website prior to Town Meeting day.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Old Town Clerk building - water supply:** Pertinent documents are being reviewed by an attorney for the Town. Eric will follow up.

**Canon copier lease expiration:** Considering the condition of the current copier, it will be purchased by the Town rather than entering into a lease for a new copier.

**Eviction proceeding - Town property on East Hill Road:** Eric stated the process is moving forward to remove the occupant on this property.

**Ordinance Committee - proposed Ordinance:** Kurt K. reported the committee received a response from Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding their proposed Ordinance. The Committee is considering a few changes as a result. Kurt will send an updated version to the board and committee members. He recommends a public hearing be held after Town Meeting day.

**Review Correspondence:**

**VLCT - Selectboard trainings:** Received.

**VERB - Health Advocate program changes:** Received. No action taken.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Eric to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Executive Session:** Motion by Eric to enter executive session citing a personnel issue. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor. The board entered executive session at 7:02 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 7:40 p.m. No action taken. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*Next regular Selectboard meeting February 19, 2020*