

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

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

Present: Kim Gravel, Michael Davidson, Jenn Holton-Clapp, Eric Furs
Absent: Richard Lee
Town Employees: Lucien Gravel, Deborah Klein, Bernard Earle
Public: Kurt Klein, Jane Melfy, Bill Cotten, Robert Harris, Diane Olson
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Naming of Private Road: A homeowner who subdivided his property off Keeler Pond Road requested his former driveway be named as a private road. This action was approved by the Development Review Board (DRB). The homeowner requested the road be named Maple Bear Lane. There are no similarly named roads in town. The owner has accepted responsibility for purchasing and installing the sign. Motion by Michael to accept the name Maple Bear Lane for the private road. Seconded by Kim. Voting: All in favor.

Approve Minutes of February 5, 2020: Under the Highway Commissioner Report, Kim requested that in her Motion the word "repairs" to be changed to "engineer expenses." Eric asked that under Comments from the Community, second paragraph, there be a sentence added that, "The same approach was taken with the the Town Clerk budget, a sort of bridge period, doing a line item for that." Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as amended. Seconded by Michael. Voting: 3 in favor, Jenn abstained since she had not been at the meeting.

Highway Commissioner Report: Lucien pointed out that in the financials for the Highway Department, the labor line item currently appears high, but reimbursement is expected to be received from FEMA. Michael pointed out that the Town had taken out a loan for \$250,000 to cover expenses until FEMA reimbursement is received. The fuel and sand budgets look good. He has some concern that the parts and repair line is over budget and work still needs to be done on the backhoe and the trailer. Lucien has met with the engineer regarding the design for the culvert on Brook Road. This will need to go out to bid.

Regarding the horse caution sign requested for Elmore Pond Road, Lucien contacted District 9 to ask about liability issues, but has not yet heard back. Once he gets a response, a decision can be made regarding whether the Town will pay for the signs. The Town will stay in touch with Ms. Melfy.

Lucien stated an ad does not need to be placed for an additional road crew member. He has interviewed two people this week, and will interview more next week. He should have a candidate by next week.

Before trees can be cut down along roads, the Tree Warden must approve. There was discussion regarding the LED lights in the Highway Department. Michael pointed out that a rebate for lights may be available through Efficiency Vermont.

Comments from the Community:

Eric said he has been talking to people who are concerned that Listers are not included on the agenda for Candidates Night. It was pointed out this is not a Town organized event. It was suggested the board look at the personnel policy on political activities by employees in the future. It was stated that Candidates Night stopped due to low attendance. It was suggested that the way people are being treated when they volunteer for the Town is causing apathy.

New Business:

Increased recycling tip fee: Richard will gather information on prices charged at Transfer Stations in surrounding towns and do a cost comparison. He may also want to check on haulers. Although the tip fee for recyclables has increased, the board does not wish to increase prices for trash at this time.

Transfer Station - gate replacement: The gate to the Transfer Station was damaged and needs to be replaced. Bernard checked on prices for a replacement. Motion by Eric authorizing the purchase of a new gate from AgWay for \$159.00. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

Financials: Transfer Station, Town: Reports were reviewed by the board.

Hyde Park/Johnson/Wolcott Sheriffs Committee: Michael reported that at the Sheriff's request, he along with a board member from Hyde Park and from Johnson met to discuss the formation of a commission to rethink law enforcement in the future. There is concern that towns will not keep approving the Sheriff's budget. The commission would consist of one Selectboard member and one citizen from each of the three towns. The agenda and meeting minutes would appear on the websites for each town. Motion by Michael for the board to authorize participation in the commission along with Hyde Park and Johnson. Voting: All in favor. Eventually the commission will present a plan to the towns.

Town Clerk budget 2020-2021 - discussion: Michael led a discussion on how the budget might be amended from the floor at Town Meeting if the same person is elected to both the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions. [Kim sat in the audience for this discussion.] The board had approved a budget preparing for the worst case scenario should the positions be held by different individuals. Michael suggested that if the same person is elected to both positions that the salary package offered would be \$50,000, which would include recording fees. That number would not include insurance. The amount in the budget for two separate individuals is \$54,000. It was suggested from the audience that if the same person is elected to both positions that the board not amend the budget from the floor at Town Meeting, but rather get together with the Clerk/Treasurer after the election to talk about salary and organization. Eric asked whether the board can call for an executive session at Town Meeting.

Listers - printer replacement: The Lister's office needs a new printer. A replacement comparable to what they have would be \$199. There is money in their budget for the purchase.

Mowing Contract - ball fields, Town Office: The board received information regarding mowing for this year. Eric will get information on cleaning up the debris on the North Wolcott ball field.

Unfinished Business:

Request for Warning Sign - Jane Melfy: It was noted that in the past, the Town paid for school bus signs requested by citizens.

Old Town Clerk building - water supply: The attorney is still checking into this matter.

Eviction proceeding - Town property on East Hill Road: The legal process is proceeding.

Review Correspondence:

Town Hall rental requests:

Motion by Kim to authorize the rental for a birthday party on March 21 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. No alcohol will be served.

Motion by Kim to authorize the rental for a baby shower on March 22 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. No alcohol will be served.

Payroll and orders: Reviewed and completed.

Motion by Eric to have Lucien Gravel serve as an alternate on the DRB and the Planning
Commission. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: 3 in favor, Kim recused due to family connection.

Executive Session: Motion by Eric to enter into executive session for personnel reasons.
Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. The board entered executive session at 7:39 p.m.
The board returned from executive session at 7:59 p.m. No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*Town Meeting - Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
Selectboard meeting Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.*