

MINUTES
of the Annual Town Meeting
for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont
March 3, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of Wolcott, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in said Town on March 3, 2020 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act upon any of the following articles of business:

Joe Hester-Ingram, moderator opened the meeting with announcements. Students from the Wolcott Elementary School chorus, lead by their teacher, Kim Beckley, sang a song.

Then Joe Hester-Ingram declared the meeting convened and read the Town Warning.

Harvey Reed motioned that any contested office with two or more candidates be voted on by paper ballot. Bessie Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 1. To elect a moderator to govern Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Cornelius Reed nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. Jan Roy seconded the nomination.

Todd Harris nominated Robert Harris. Bernard Earle seconded the nomination.

Lucien Gravel called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Paper Ballot: 134 votes cast - 68 needed to win

Joe Hester-Ingram 97 votes

Robert Harris 34 votes

Belinda Clegg 2 votes

Blank 1 vote

Joe Hester-Ingram elected to serve as moderator for a year.

Members of the Wolcott Girls basketball team lead the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk for a two year term.

Bessie Martin nominated Belinda Clegg. Annette Hart seconded the nomination.

Michael Shedd nominated Kimberly Gravel. Dean Shedd seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Walter Reeves seconded the motioned.

Passed on a voice vote.

Paper Ballot:	184 votes cast - 93 needed to win
Belinda Clegg	129 votes
Kimberly Gravel	52 votes
Spoiled	3 votes

Belinda Clegg elected to serve as Town Clerk for a two year term.

Belinda Clegg was then given her oath of office by retiring Town Clerk, Linda Martin.

Selectboard, Kim Gravel, presented retiring Town Clerk and Treasurer, Linda Martin, with flowers and a dedication plaque in recognition of her service to the town from 1986-2020.

A House Resolution was read and presented to former Representative Linda Martin for her service as Wolcott Town Clerk and Treasurer by Representatives Dan Noyes and Matt Hill.

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint the Town Treasurer rather than electing a Town Treasurer? V.S.A. §2651 (f) (a) (1)

Belinda Clegg motioned to pass over the article. Cornelius Reed seconded

the motion.

Eric Furs called the question. Walter Reeve seconded. Passed on a voice vote.

Motion passed on a hand vote to pass over Article 3.

Article 4. To elect the following Town Officers as require by law:

Town Treasurer – two year term

Bessie Martin nominated Belinda Clegg. Walter Reeve seconded the nomination.

John Phelps called for nominations to cease. Annette Hart seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Belinda Clegg elected Town Treasurer for a term of two years.

Selectboard – three year term

Robert Harris nominated Linda Martin. Lucien Gravel seconded the nomination.

Dana Gravel called for nominations to cease. Passed on a voice vote. The Town Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Linda Martin.

Linda Martin elected to the Selectboard for a three year term.

Selectboard – two year term

Robert Harris nominated Kurt Klein. Alyssa Martin seconded the nomination.

Michael Davidson nominated Lucien Gravel. Nathan Davidson seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Passed on a voice vote.

Paper Ballot: 106 votes cast – 54 needed to win

Kurt Klein 59 votes
Lucien Gravel 47 votes

Kurt Klein elected to the Selectboard for a two year term.

Linda Martin presented Jennifer Holton-Clapp and Eric Furs with a certificate of appreciation for their service to the town as Selectboard members.

Lister – three year term

Tom Martin nominated Deborah Klein. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Bessie Martin seconded the nomination.

Passed on a voice vote.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Deborah Klein.

Deborah Klein was elected as a Lister for a three year term.

Lister – two year term

Nathan Davidson nominated Eric Furs. Rebecca Ventrice seconded the nomination.

Cornelius Reed nominated Tracey Grunow. Barbara Von Schlegelle seconded the nomination.

Nathan Farnham called for nominations to cease. Walter Reeve seconded the motion.

Passed on a voice vote.

Paper Ballot: Vote 1	92 ballots cast – 48 needed to win
Eric Furs	46 votes
Tracey Grunow	45 votes

No winner.

Paper Ballot: Vote 2	99 ballots cast – 50 to win
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Eric Furs	51 votes
Tracey Grunow	47 votes
Spoiled	1 vote

Eric Furs was elected as a Lister for a two year term.

Town Agent to Deed Real Estate – one year term

Harvey Reed nominated Dan Noyes. Chan Judd seconded the nomination.

Bill Cotten called for nominations to cease. Oral vote passed

Dan Noyes elected Town Agent to Deed Real Estate for a term of one year.

Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits – one year term

Harvey Reed nominated Cornelius Reed. Michael Davidson seconded the nomination.

Lucien Gravel called for nominations to cease. Walter Reeve seconded the motion.

Passed on a voice vote.

Cornelius Reed elected Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for a term of one year.

Library Trustee – five year term

Dawn Cochran nominated Ruth Ann Demag. Amy Coolbeth seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Michael Davidson seconded the motion.

Passed on a voice vote.

Ruth Ann Demag elected a Library Trustee for a term of five years.

Cemetery Commissioner - five year term

Harvey Reed nominated Cornelius Reed. Chan Judd seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Walter Reeve seconded the motion.

Cornelius Reed elected a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years.

Article 5. Shall the Town publish a list of delinquent taxpayers as of December 31st and a list of any other delinquent accounts due the Town in the town report?

Bill Cotten moved to accept the article. Michael Davidson seconded the motion.

Eric Furs called the question. **Article 5 approved on a voice vote.**

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$231,972 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for police services?

Bessie Martin moved to accept the article. Chan Judd seconded the motion.

The moderator asked the voters permission to allow officers from the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office to speak. Permission was granted.

Detective Scott Kirkpatrick and Deputy Dan Locke explained that their biggest problem with arresting and locking up drug dealers was staffing at the Sheriff's Office. A federal level staff will be working in the office soon. This will help with being able to prosecute in the federal courts which is much stricter in terms of convictions. Kurt Klein stated drug distribution is a real problem in town. Kurt Billings had concerns around the speed limits within the village, especially at commute hours. Mike Green was concerned with the ingress and egress to East Hill Road from Vt Rte 15. Ralph Rockwell wondered why the electronic speed sign in North Wolcott stopped working.

Bill Cotten called the question. Harvey Reed seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 6 approved on a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$41,500 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for dispatch?

Bill Cotten moved to accept the article. David Coolbeth seconded the motion.

Melissa Patnoe called the question. Walter Reeve seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 7 approved on a voice vote.

Article 8 was inadvertently misnumbered. There is no Article 8.

Article 9. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,000 in matching funds for two grants through the Historic Preservation Trust of Vermont to conduct an assessment and provide an engineering report for costs to repair the structural foundation components of the old school house?

Bessie Martin moved to accept the article. Michael Davidson seconded the motion.

Chad Roy from the Historic School House Committee spoke. He explained that they had secured two grants for a structural assessment and needed a match. They had received proposals from engineers which were expensive. These grants would save the town money. He felt the School House would be a great asset once the rail trail was complete. Robert Harris felt that the underneath of the building was too rotten.

Eric Furs called the question. Robert Tenney seconded the motion. Pass on a voice vote.

Article 9 approved on a voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate \$29,694 to the following social

service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

American Red Cross	\$ 500
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	1,200
Central Vermont Council on Aging & RSVP	1,700
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	500
Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad	13,403
Home Share Vermont	400
Justice for Dogs	500
Lamoille Community Food Share, Inc	600
Lamoille County Planning Commission	1,031
Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit	1,082
Lamoille Economic Development Corp	750
Lamoille Family Center	500
Lamoille Home Health & Hospice	5,028
Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County	1,400
Rural Community Transportation, Inc	1,000
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100

Bill Cotten moved the article. Amy Coolbeth seconded the motion. Deb Edwards called the question. Melissa Patnoe seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 10 approved on a voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the voters make the following statement of support? We the citizens of Wolcott, strongly support the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. We urge the Legislature to appropriate funds that will ensure the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is completed by 2025.

Bill Cotten moved the article. Amy Coolbeth seconded the motion. A few voters were concerned it would take money away from the transportation fund. Trisha Follert explained that there was federal money available and the State share was in the Governor's budget not the transportation fund.

Cindy Lowell called the question. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 11 approved on a voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer in two equal installments; with delinquent taxes having charged against them three percent (3%) penalty 1-5 days late, five percent (5%) penalty 5-10 days late, eight percent (8%) penalty after 10 days late and collect interest on late and delinquent payments of one (1%) percent per month for the first three months and one and half (1 ½%) thereafter? 32 V.S.A. § 4873 & §5136 (a)

First installment to be paid on or before November 16, 2020

Second installment to be paid on or before May 17, 2021

Harvey Reed moved the article. Robert Harris seconded the motion. Tim Loubier felt the interest and penalty makes it harder to pay late taxes.

Harvey Reed called the question. Richard Lee seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 12 approved on a voice vote.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize total general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,567,257 of which \$1,274,708 to be raised in taxes and \$292,549 by non-tax revenues?

Bill Cotten moved the article. Chan Judd seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. It was asked if the budget included a town administrator position. Selectboard member Michael Davidson explained that the budget did include a part-time administrator for around 25 hours per week. Linda Martin spoke in support of this position.

Eric Furs called the question. Chan Judd seconded the motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Article 13 approved on a voice vote.

Article 14. To transact any other non-binding business.

Gabe Day is working on his Eagle Scout rank and is looking for a project to complete for the town. Currently he is taking a survey to see there is an interest to place E-911 number signs at people's property. Please come and take the survey in the lobby.

Jackie Burgess said the Library was putting on a free community dinner on March 14th. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Sally Gardner the Librarian.

Bill Cotten motioned to make Jax, the office cat, the honorary Mayor of Wolcott. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Ruth Ann Demag presented the School House Committee with a \$2000 donation from the Library's outreach grant.

Barbara Von Schlegell wanted to thank Deb and Kurt Klein for volunteering to video Selectboard meetings.

Kurt Billings would like to see Australian ballots for town officers and budgets.

Sonia Ennis would like to see town meeting moved to the weekend so more people could attend.

Kurt Klein met with GMATV because the candidates night video was pulled. They don't allow editing. He challenged the voters to contact them about why Wolcott has been censored.

Joe Hester-Ingram pointed out the dedication to Arlo Sterner in the town report. He thanked Arlo for his service to the town.


Bill Cotten motioned to adjourn. Michael Davidson seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Linda J. Martin

Minutes Attested by:


Belinda Clegg

Retiring Town Clerk

Wolcott Town Clerk