

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes June 17, 2020

Wolcott Town Office/Phone-in - 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Kim Gravel, Mike Davidson, Richard Lee, Linda Martin, Kurt Klein
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Lucien Gravel, Dean Mercier, Deb Klein
Public: Mike Shedd, Bill Cotten, Alex Howe, Emily Dressingaker, Monica Cross
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

Kim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda

Audit Engagement Letter: The board reviewed the audit engagement letter submitted by Fothergill Segale & Valley, CPAs to provide services to the Town for the year ending June 30, 2020. The fee for the services will be \$14,000. The board approved retaining their services.

Union Bank - bid for tax-anticipation loan: The board reviewed a Tax Anticipation Loan with Reinvestment Option as well as the option for a Non-Revolver Line of Credit. Motion by Linda to accept the Tax Anticipation Loan with Reinvestment Option. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Tax Sale: The Town Clerk has been advised that the tax sale that had been postponed due to COVID-19 public gathering guidelines can resume. Motion by Linda for the Clerk to set a date and go forward with the sale. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Property Tax Timeline: The Clerk provided to the Board the Vermont Department of Taxes summary of changes made with regard to the 2020-2021 property tax timeline for review.

Primary Election Updates: The Clerk informed the Board of election updates set by the State, and how the Town is preparing for the election. The State will send postcards outlining how absentee ballots can be obtained, and will encourage absentee voting.

Meeting Schedule for Summer: The Board will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesdays during the summer months.

Library Update: The Wolcott School Trustees will be invited to meet with the Board at the July 1 Selectboard meeting to discuss the possibility of having the library move from the school to the Depot building next to Town Office. Concerns have been expressed about the public and school children interacting at the library's current location during the pandemic.

Animal Control Officer: Dean, the Animal Control Officer, informed the Board of a barking dog situation on East Hill Road. The dog's owner has been warned about the excessive barking in the past. Dean was advised to proceed to the next steps to address the issue should the barking persist.

Approve Minutes of June 3, 2020

Under Highway Department Report, fourth sentence, it needs to be clarified that the road work referenced on Morey Hill and East Elmore Road is dependent upon the Town receiving Better Back Roads grants. The Town has applied for the grants, but the grants have not yet been approved. Motion by Mike to approve the Minutes with the above clarification. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community

Emily Dressingaker discussion of Hines Road: Emily explained to the Board that she and Alex have started farming their property on Hines Road. In order to better access some of their fields, they would like to improve approximately 840 feet of the Class 4 section of Hines Road running through their property that is not maintained by the Town. Their concern is if they improve the condition of the road, what will happen in the future if motorized traffic causes erosion or other damage to that section. Options were discussed. The Town will contact Craftsbury to see about putting up a No Outlet sign at the beginning of Hines Road.

Highway Department Report

Truck repairs: The 2013 tandem truck is going to Viking for body repair, and then to J & B for other repair work. The Board wants to be advised on the cost estimate for repairs at J & B.

Hauling of winter sand: The road crew will haul winter sand on an overtime basis.

Maintenance of Town Garage: Emergency repairs were made to the roof on the Fire Station. A section of the gutter that had fallen from the Town Garage was replaced.

Grader: The grader appears to be running better now that the radiator has been cleaned and oil and filters changed. Lucien is now concerned about the condition of the excavator. Lucien provided the Board with an Equipment Schedule he prepared. The first priority needs to be getting a new grader.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Report

Taxes - update: The amount of delinquent taxes is now down to \$111,000 from \$162,000. Belinda reviewed with the Board the Balance Sheet as of June 17. A discussion ensued regarding assigning funds to next year's budget. Motion by Linda to move \$5,800 from the Excess Building Fund to next year's budget. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor.

New Business

Meeting technology options: Mike has been looking into technology options to accommodate holding meetings that are held in person and also allow people to phone in. He is currently looking at connecting two bluetooth speakers.

Selectboard Assistant position: This discussion will be held at the July 1 meeting.

Unfinished Business

NEK Broadband CUD: The Town will be represented on the NEK Broadband CUD. Motion by Richard to have Michael Davidson serve as Wolcott's representative with Bruce Wheeler serving as the alternate. Seconded by Linda. Voting: All in favor.

Open positions: No applications have been received for a Transfer Station helper. The job description for janitor may be changed by eliminating the requirement of refinishing the floor at Old Town Hall. The positions are advertised on the website. They will be noticed again on Front Porch Forum.

Mowing bids: Bids will be reviewed at the July 1 meeting.

Eviction proceeding - Town property on East Hill Road: The matter is proceeding through court.

Policy updates: Discussion ensued regarding who is covered under the Conflict of Interest policy. The Conflict of Interest and Procurement Policy will be reviewed again at the July 1 meeting.

Town Office budget for 2020-2021: Options were discussed for the hours worked by Town Clerk/Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk. Belinda proposed the Town Clerk/Treasurer work 34 hours per week, and the Assistant Town Clerk work 32 hours per week. Motion by Kurt to have the work hours for Town Clerk/Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer be set as put forth by Belinda. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Correspondence - Reviewed.

Adjourn

Motion by Linda to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next regular Selectboard meeting - July 1, 2020