

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 15, 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, Linda Martin, Kurt Klein  
Absent: Richard Lee  
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Dillan Cafferky, Lucien Gravel, Deb Klein, Dean Mercier  
Present: Linda Reeve, Kurt Billings, Karen McKee, Diane Olsen, Bill Cotten, Ray Earle, Barbara von Schlegell, Monica Cross

---

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

### **Amendments to the Agenda:**

Kurt asked that a quote from J & B Truck Center for truck repairs be added under No. 6 Highway Department.

The Animal Control Officer wishes to update the board on a situation he is working on.

The matter of the eviction from the Town-owned property on East Hill Road will remain on the Agenda under Unfinished Business until it is resolved.

**Approve Minutes of July 1 & July 8, 2020:** Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of July 1 and July 8 as written. Seconded by Linda. Voting: 3 in favor, Kim recused herself since she had not been present.

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

Dean, the Animal Control Officer (ACO), informed the board of a complaint received regarding dogs at a property on Hines Road. Following an investigation, the ACO wishes to issue citations and seize the remaining dogs. The ACO is working with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office and the State's Attorney's Office. Motion by Mike to authorize the Animal Control Officer to issue a citation and to pursue with the State's Attorney's office possible seizure of dogs remaining on the property. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Ray Earle informed the board his son was issued a citation by the ACO. He added that the issue has been resolved. Ray felt there had been unfair treatment on behalf of the Town regarding payment of dog license fees. The issue was resolved.

Junk Ordinance - comments: Linda Reeve questioned the need for a local ordinance since there is a State statute. Kurt explained how the Ordinance differs from the State statute. The Ordinance was reviewed by Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) legal department. In order for a citation to go before the Judicial Bureau in Lamoille County, the judge would need to see the Town's Ordinance. Linda Reeve's concern is with government telling landowners what they can and cannot do on private property when their actions really do not affect others. It was pointed out that the Ordinance Committee does not conduct an investigation without a citizen

complaint. The Judicial Bureau does not require participants to have legal representation. Citizens look to the Town to resolve concerns they have regarding junk and garbage. The Town currently has two Ordinances in effect regarding junk and junk vehicles. This new Ordinance combines the two, cleaning up some of the language, and also addresses "free piles." Bill Cotten, Junk Ordinance Committee member, pointed out the Town has had an ordinance about junk and garbage for years. Other towns throughout the State have a similar ordinance. Many have followed the same template from VLCT. The State does not have sufficient manpower to follow up on complaints. It is a health problem and an image problem. Property values can be destroyed. The Committee wants to work with people. Linda Martin stated she had received a call from a resident who felt the timeline in the Ordinance for free piles is too short. It was pointed out the free pile concept has been abused by some. Landlords say they cannot control free piles because there is no ordinance addressing it. Linda Reeve will pursue a Petition seeking signatures from at least five percent of registered voters. She feels citizens should vote on this. The Petition would be due by July 20.

Barbara von Schlegell, West Hill Road, requested the roadsides not be mowed until the milkweed have flowered. Milkweed saves Monarch butterflies. The Monarch butterfly population is in decline. It was agreed the roadsides will not be mowed before August 1.

#### **Keeler Pond Road - pond discussion:**

Diane Olsen appeared representing the landowner who has owned property on Keeler Pond Road for eight years. The concern is with pipes that had been installed in the pond some time ago that are now causing a problem with the pond level and posing a threat to wildlife. It is believed the pipes were installed in the pond in 2005 by the Town Highway Department, with the consent of the landowners at the time, to prevent the road from flooding if the water level in the pond got too high. The current landowner wants the dam back to its original state with a proper pond drain that will be better for wildlife. Experts on wetlands need to be consulted along with Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT). Conversation will continue.

#### **Highway Department:**

**Equipment - lease review:** The Highway Department had previously submitted to the board quotes received for a new grader and excavator. The best quote was from Milton Caterpillar in Richmond. Kurt reviewed with the board a multi-page document outlining the proposed governmental equipment lease/purchase agreement through Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation. The discounted quote for a grader is \$319,000, less \$30,000 as a trade-in, leaving a balance of \$289,000 on a ten-year term. The annual up-front payment would be \$33,416. The discounted quote for an excavator with mulching head is \$116,000 on a seven year term. The annual up-front payment would be \$18,317. Combined, the annual payment would be \$51,733 which is well within the annual equipment budget. There is a seven year warranty. Caterpillar offers free training. Delivery would be in four to six months. Motion by Kurt to have Caterpillar prepare the lease/purchase agreement, to be reviewed by the Town attorney, so an order can be placed. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**J & B Estimate for truck repairs:** The board reviewed a quote from J & B Truck Center for repair work to be done on truck No. 13 in the amount of \$8,851.73. Repairs may take about a week to complete. Once complete the truck will go to Viking for body work. Motion by Mike to accept the quote from J & B and to have them proceed with the repairs. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All 4 in favor.

#### **Town Clerk/Treasurer:**

Belinda reviewed with the board the Profit & Loss document reflecting year end balances. Changes may occur following the audit. Belinda will research options regarding the copier.

**New Business:**

**Transfer Station:** For several weeks a bear has been entering bins at the Transfer Station and spreading trash. Due to problems, the Transfer Station has at times had to close without notice, for which the board apologizes. The fee sign at the Transfer Station has been updated. Mowing and trimming at the Transfer Station has been completed. Mowing bids must be submitted in the future to comply with the Procurement Policy.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Conflict of Interest Policy:** Tabled to the August 5 meeting. VLCT is to respond to a board question.

**Fire Station - maintenance:** Bids will be sought for work on the Fire Station. Work includes replacing some metal on the roof, work on fascia, and gutters.

**Selectboard Assistant - job description:** The board agreed upon a job description for the position. At the August 5 meeting, the board will decide upon a range of hours, salary range, and job title.

**Library move to Depot building:** Linda will meet with the Fire Marshall to go through the building. The building has been inspected by the insurance representative. Linda will provide the board with an update at the August 5 meeting.

**Eviction proceeding on Town-owned property on East Hill Road:** The Town has not yet been informed whether the matter was heard in court today.

**Correspondence:** There was a discussion regarding Town employee salaries being stated in the Minutes when adopted as part of a new budget.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Mike to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All 4 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*Next regularly scheduled meeting - August 5, 2020, 6:00 p.m.*