

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes August 19, 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, Richard Lee, Kurt Klein  
Employees: Dean Mercier, Belinda Harris Clegg, Dillan Cafferky, Lucien Gravel  
Deb Klein  
Guests: Paul Marangelo, Kate Donnally  
Public: Dan Noyes, Monica Cross  
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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Kim called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

## **Amendments to the Agenda:**

Motion by Mike to appoint Bill Cotten as a Wolcott citizen representative to the Law Enforcement Study Group. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

The board signed a document for the safety checks to be conducted at the intersections of Vt Rt. 15 and North Wolcott Road and East Hill Road. The safety checks were discussed previously during a presentation by Rob Moore of Lamoille County Planning Commission.

**Approve Minutes of August 5, 2020:** Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of August 5 as written. Seconded by Linda. Voting: All in favor.

**Fort Hill Bridge Project:** Paul Marangelo, Senior Conservation Ecologist, with The Nature Conservancy, provided an update on the project. Just about all of the required permits are in place. He anticipates work on removing the bridge will begin early September and run until mid-October. The bridge will be demolished due to its poor condition. The debris will be removed, and the metal recycled. The site will be restored with vegetation. The Nature Conservancy will share with the Town the history of the bridge. Once received, the information will be posted on the Town website.

**Animal Control Officer:** Dean Mercier, ACO, provided the board with an update on his activities. Motion by Linda for the Selectboard Chair to sign the Dog Warrant. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. The Dog Warrant authorizes the ACO to impound unlicensed dogs.

**Kate Donnally, Candidate for State Representative:** Kate introduced herself as the Lamoille 2 District candidate for the Vermont House of Representatives. Kate recognized the many volunteers who work at the municipal level, and thanked them for their efforts. Kate then responded to questions. More information is available at her website.

**Comments from the Community:** None.

## **Highway Department**

**Better Back Roads Grant:** The board discussed the Better Back Roads grant for work on Morey Hill Road. The work will include culvert replacement. It is anticipated work will be completed by the end of the year. Motion by Linda authorizing the board to accept the grant for the project. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor. The grant requires a \$5,000 match from the Town.

**Excavator:** The new excavator was received by the Highway Department. The excavator the Town has been using will be put up for sale.

## **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

**Tax Rate:** Belinda presented to the board a tax rate of .8339 based upon her calculations. The homestead and non-residential rates are set by the State. This year the homestead rate is 2.5094. The non-residential rate is 2.5382. The homestead increase from last year is fourteen cents; seven cents for the Town and seven cents for the school. The non-residential increase is nineteen cents. Motion by Mike to set the tax rate for the Town at .8339. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All in favor.

**Tax Sale:** Seven properties were included in the August 19 tax sale. Two properties were redeemed, five were sold. One of the five was purchased by the Town.

## **New Business**

**Town Hall:** The board discussed COVID-19 policies that need to be followed by those using the Town Hall. Guidelines will be added to the Town Hall rental form. The handicapped parking sign will be moved to its former location.

**Highway Access Policy:** Matter tabled to the September 2 meeting to allow all board members an opportunity to review the proposed policy.

**Request for tax payment plan:** The board reviewed a resident's written request for a payment plan toward back taxes. Motion by Kurt to accept the payment plan as proposed, paying \$125 per month for the next year. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor. After one year, the resident will need to approach the board once again.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Transfer Station:** The board discussed measures that can be taken to improve efficiency and safety at the Transfer Station.

**Repairs to Fire Station:** The Town is seeking someone to do the repair work.

**Library move to the Depot building:** Linda met with a representative of Efficiency Vermont to go through the building. The move may take place by October 1.

**Eviction proceeding - property on East Hill Road:** The matter is pending due to the court schedule.

**Administrative Assistant to Selectboard - update:** A resume has been received. The applicant will be invited to meet with the Selectboard.

## **Correspondence**

**Town Hall Rental Request:** The Wolcott United Methodist Church requests to use Town Hall for a take-out dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 26. No alcohol will be served. Motion by Richard to grant the rental request for September 26 and waive the rental fee. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor.

**Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT):** The VLCT virtual Town Fair will be held September 28 to October 2.

**Lamoille County Sheriff's Office:** The July report was received. It indicates there were no directed patrols, nor were there any arrests for the month.

**John Deere:** A salesman with John Deere sent an email taking issue with the method followed in obtaining bids/quotes for the grader and excavator.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Richard to adjourn. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*Next regularly scheduled meeting - September 2, 2020*