

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
November 4, 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: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Kurt Billings
Absent: Kim Gravel, Richard Lee
Employees: Randall Szott, Dillan Cafferky, Lucien Gravel, Belinda Harris Clegg,
Bernard Earle, Sally Gardner, Deb Klein
Public: Monica Cross, Diane Earle, David Carter, James Olsen
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of October 21, 2020: Klein moved to approve the Minutes. Martin asked that the Minutes be amended. Under Executive Session, replace the sentence, “No action was taken at this time” with “A letter will be placed in the Transfer Station attendant’s personnel file.” Also, under Highway Department, the last line, regarding theft of the solar speed sign, Town Hill Road should be replaced with North Wolcott Road. Linda seconded the motion. Approval of the Minutes was tabled until a quorum of members who attended the meeting is present.

Comments from the Community: David Carter, who lives on Brook Road, sought answers from the board on the status of the culvert repair project on Brook Road. Carter pointed out that the culvert has been a problem on and off over the year. He stated it is very inconvenient to take detours. He inquired as to short- and long-term solutions.

Martin stated that bids had been sought for work on a short-term solution until spring. The board will select one tonight. It may take a week for the work to get started, and maybe three days to complete. The road will then be open to traffic. Martin pointed out that complying with FEMA regulations has been a holdup. For the long-term, an engineer has designed a plan for a new concrete box culvert, and permits have been secured. The board will most likely seek bids for that work in early spring, with work starting in the summer. The road will be closed while work is being done this summer. Lucien stated additional questions regarding the Brook Road project may be directed to the Highway Department.

Highway Department

Brook Road - Discussion & Review of Bids: Bids for temporary repairs to Brook Road were sought from four companies. The work would include installation and removal of steel beams

and steel plates. The board received two bids. GW Tatro bid \$54,000. Blow & Cote, Inc. bid \$31,500. JA McDonald, Inc. and one other company declined to bid. Discussion ensued. Motion by Klein to accept the bid from Blow & Cote, Inc. for temporary repair to the Brook Road culvert project, pending negotiated rental fee of \$1,000 or less per month after June 1, 2021. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Clean Water Grant: The Highway Department will schedule work required, such as cleaning out culverts, per the BMP Verification Site Visit Report of October 8, 2020. The Town is required to respond by November 13.

Culvert repair - Town Hill Road: The Highway Department has been responding to a sink hole that reappears on Town Hill Road. Work will have to be done on the culvert before it becomes an emergency. Monica Cross reminded the board of the 1995 flood that was very dangerous and resulted in a death. She recommends the board not wait too long to repair the culvert. Billings noted that in 1995 Wolcott Pond let loose resulting in a chain reaction, describing it as a 100 year occurrence.

Lucian indicated an engineer has been involved in assessing the problem. There is a \$250 fee for an initial project review. An additional \$650 fee is required to determine the extent of the problem with the culvert. Motion by Klein to expend \$625 for the engineer's field measurements and documentation to start right away, in addition to the \$250 fee for the initial project review. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Equipment Updates: Dillan reported that the new grader has shipped and may be received by the end of the year. Truck #13 continues to have maintenance problems. A mechanic had to be called to repair a blown valve.

The board inquired of Bernard whether he will plow the parking lots of Town Office, the Depot building, and Town Hall this winter. Bernard indicated his interest in contracting with the Town for plowing, at a rate of \$60 for each plow, along with spreading salt as needed. Bernard was agreeable to an additional \$30 to clear the parking lots at the end of the day if it has snowed all day. Motion by Klein to accept Bernard's contractual offer of plowing the parking lots of Town Office, the Depot building, and Town Hall at a rate of \$60 for major cleanup and an additional \$30 to open the road when needed, as well as salting where needed. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Dillan was asked to get an idea of the cost for an iPad so he could then have the capability of taking photos that would include time, date, and coordinates, to assist with complying with FEMA requirements. Dillan noted he will pick up the speed cart this week.

New Business

Town Hall Rental Approval Process: Town Hall rental requests will be processed by the Town Clerk/Treasurer. The Selectboard will consider the rental application if the service of alcohol is requested, or if the request involves more than a one time rental.

Library Budget Discussion: Sally Gardner stated the library is seeking level funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The library will receive \$10,000 from the Copley Munson Fund. The board discussed with Sally her anticipated hours as librarian, and asked that she discuss with the Library Trustees her anticipated hours for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Sally will report back to the board before the next fiscal year's budget is finalized. Sally hopes that shelving will be installed in the Depot building by mid-month. Billings was thanked for removing the play equipment from behind the Depot building.

Local Mitigation Plan Approval: The board reviewed the findings of the Wolcott Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion by Klein to adopt the resolution approving the Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Wolcott. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Discuss Requirements for Consideration of Community/Organization Support as Town Meeting Article: Szott brought to the attention of the board a request from an organization to be included in the Warning for Town Meeting seeking an appropriation. The question arose as to whether a Petition would be required in order to be included in the Warning, particularly during the pandemic. A State statute exists whereby a Town can require the organization to submit a Petition with a certain number of signatures. Some Towns have a written policy. Wolcott has an informal policy whereby if an organization that has been receiving an appropriation from the Town seeks an increase, they need to submit a Petition to the board, as do those organizations seeking an appropriation for the first time. Martin recommends a written policy for the future. Billings suggested a limit on total amount for appropriations. The board discussed whether Hardwick Rescue should be a separate line item in the budget rather than an appropriation.

Motion by Klein for the Wolcott Selectboard to suspend the requirement for a Petition until the end of the stated declaration of emergency due to Covid-19, and reserves the right to approve community organizations seeking to appear on Warned Articles for funding. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Unfinished Business

Maintenance job: The applicant for the maintenance position withdrew. The ad remains posted on the Town website.

Sheriff Committee Appointment: James Olsen, who lives on Elmore Pond Road, expressed his interest in volunteering to serve as Wolcott's representative on the Law Enforcement Study Group. The board thanked Olsen for coming forward. His background makes him particularly well-suited for the position. Motion by Klein to accept James Olsen as Wolcott's representative on the Law Enforcement Study Group. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor. Olsen will join representatives from Hyde Park and Johnson that also contract services with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. Their first meeting will be later this month.

Budget Process: Szott reported he is receiving budget requests. Szott also has information on costs for medical insurance. The board will need to decide on an insurance plan before the December 1 deadline.

Signs for Transfer Station: Martin will have signs made to indicate areas where customers are prohibited, as well as what is, and is not, accepted at the Transfer Station. The signs will address concerns that were brought up during the inspection last August.

Barriers for Town Garage: Szott stated the Town qualifies for a grant for up to \$3,000 for barriers. He is looking into how much the project would cost.

Highway Access Policy: Szott is reviewing a 2006 Ordinance, as well as other ordinances, in an effort to consolidate the documents into a policy for the Town.

Adjourn: Motion by Klein to adjourn. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - November 18, 2020