

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

March 17, 2021

Virtual meeting: 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, Richard Lee, Kurt Billings, Allen Carpenter
Employees: Randall Szott, Belinda Harris Clegg, Dillan Cafferky, Deb Klein
Public: John Wheeler, Monica Cross
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Szott announced that the Town was awarded a \$500 mini grant by Healthy Lamoille Valley (HLV) for the purpose of creating a community garden and veggie pantry in the space behind the Library. A document accepting the grant must be submitted to HLV by April 1. Motion by Lee to formally approve of the space behind the Library to be used as a community garden and veggie pantry. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. Martin thanked Deb Klein and Randall Szott for their work on the grant application. She feels it will be a good addition to the Town.

Klein asked that Executive Session for personnel reasons be added at the end of the Agenda.

Approve Minutes

Minutes of March 3, 2021: Motion by Klein to accept the Minutes of March 3. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: Martin, Klein and Carpenter in favor. Lee and Billings abstained. Motion carried.

Minutes of February 24, 2021: Motion by Klein to accept the Minutes of February 24. Seconded by Lee. Voting: Martin, Klein and Lee in favor. Carpenter and Billings abstained. Motion carried.

Minutes of February 17, 2021: Motion by Klein to accept the Minutes of February 17. Seconded by Lee. Voting: Martin, Klein, Billings and Lee in favor. Carpenter abstained. Motion carried.

Comments from the Community: None.

Highway Department

Gulf Rd Quote Bridge Repairs: Cafferky addressed the Bridge Report received from the State. The largest project will be repairing the fascia on the bridge on Gulf Road. The issue is cosmetic, not structural. Cafferky is gathering quotes for the work that needs to be done. Cafferky is also seeking quotes for work to correct the guardrail on Gulf Road that was deemed to be too low.

Quote Rental Rate Brook Rd: Cafferky discussed with the board the rental agreement for the temporary bridge on Brook Road. Terms of the agreement include \$4,800 for one year rental, and an additional \$400 per month after that if needed. The temporary bridge was put into place in July, 2020.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Szott informed the board he is working on an application for a grant through AARP that would address improvements to the community garden and create a park-like area that would connect with the gazebo for the community to enjoy.
- Szott applied for a grant for the transfer station, but has not yet received any feedback.
- Research has begun seeking harassment training for Town personnel. Such training could reduce potential liability.
- Szott and Klein attended the recent Law Enforcement Study Group virtual meeting, along with the Town's two representatives on the group. The group is now entering its report phase.
- Szott attended a webinar on road drainage.
- Work continues on updating the Personnel Policy.

New Business

Income and Expense Report: Belinda reviewed with the board certain aspects of the report. In discussing the Transfer Station, she noted that recycling costs are higher than expected. Klein added that the roll off containers need to be monitored. Martin noted that new signage will be in place at the Transfer Station soon. It was suggested that perhaps volunteers could help out at the Transfer Station until DOC workers can safely return.

NEMRC Software Agreement: The software agreement is broken down into separate modules for various departments. Not all modules are needed, or are being utilized. The agreement needs to be renegotiated. The matter will be discussed at the April 7 meeting.

Use of Conference Room for Girl Scout Troop: A request was made by the Girl Scouts to meet in the board room in Town Office on Monday evenings beginning April 1. The request is made in the event of bad weather. Otherwise the group can meet in the gazebo. It is anticipated there would be 10 girls and 2 leaders. Discussion ensued regarding the current protocol, and safety measures. Motion by Lee to deny at this time the request by the Girl Scouts to meet in Town Office, to protect the health of elected officials and staff. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. The matter may be considered again as restrictions are lifted.

Select Designated Person to Sign Selectboard Orders: Procedurally, orders are reviewed by all board members. To ensure orders are signed in a timely fashion, the board may designate a primary signer for the year. It was suggested there be two designated signers. Motion by Lee for Martin and Klein to serve as designated signers for orders. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All in favor.

Town/Informational Meeting Questionnaire Discussion: It was suggested the board provide citizens with an opportunity to express their feelings regarding Town vote by Australian ballot versus having an in-person Town Meeting. It was noted that this year for Town Meeting day, 130 voted absentee and 103 voted in person at Town Office. The largest in-person vote total for Town Meeting day was 180, which occurred last year. Szott will work on developing a

survey. Board members can submit proposed questions to Szott. The final draft will be discussed at the April 7 meeting.

Reinstate Junk Ordinance: Voters chose to override the Petition in opposition to the Ordinance. Motion by Klein to bring the Junk Ordinance out of suspension and make it effective immediately. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Appoint Town Officials: The board stated the following individuals are interested in serving as Town Officials: Chad Roy, Planning Commission; Jim Robert, Development Review Board; TAC alternative, Randall Szott; Tom Martin, Zoning Administrator. Motion by Lee to accept the appointments of the four individuals as stated. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

LCPC Hearing Notice - Change of Bylaws: Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) provided to the board a draft of proposed Bylaws changes. A public hearing will be held April 7. Board members were asked if they had questions or comments regarding the changes. Discussion ensued. LCPC will be notified the board had no comments.

Solid Waste Fees for the Town/Transfer Station Discussion: Solid waste fees went up in January for trash and recycling. Wolcott is part of the Solid Waste District, so should follow their fee schedule. That was corrected. Casella had not been charging correct fees for three years.

Unfinished Business

Adopt Rules of Procedure: The board discussed amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The matter will be considered at the April 7 meeting.

Personnel Policy Revision: Changes to the Personnel Policy are still being discussed.

Harris + Allen, Gardner, and Tallman Deeds (Brook Rd): The engineer is completing a Mylar map. There will be a meeting with the landowners impacted to review the site plan. Deeds will then be prepared.

Note Taker for Law Enforcement Committee: Szott will communicate with the Wolcott representatives on the Committee.

Executive Session: Motion by Klein to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter, inviting Szott to participate. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The board entered executive session at 7:47 p.m. The board left executive session at 8:02 p.m. Motion by Lee to increase the salary for the Transfer Station attendant to \$13.00 per hour effective March 20, 2021. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting April 7, 2021

