

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
April 7, 2021

Zoom 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, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee
Employees: Randall Szott, Belinda Harris Clegg, Dillan Cafferky, Deb Klein
Lucien Gravel
Guests: Greg Stefanski, Emily Rosenbaum, Lamoille Area Health and Human
Service Response Command Center
Public: Rick Harkins, Andy Duff, Kee Gillan, Monica Cross
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Martin stated Kee Gillan was invited to attend the meeting to discuss the Recreation Committee's plans for the remainder of this fiscal year. That will be added to New Business.

Martin stated that Union Bank needs a replacement copy of the resolution to authorize Belinda to sign checks and conduct business on the Town's account in her capacity as Treasurer. Motion by Klein to submit to the bank the resolution replacement document authorizing Belinda sign checks and do other business as needed as Treasurer. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Approve Minutes of March 17, 2021: Motion by Klein to accept the Minutes of March 17, 2021. Seconded by Lee. Discussion: none. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: None.

Highway Department

- Cafferky reported the crew has been grading roads this week. Washouts and drainage problems will be addressed next week.
- A meeting is scheduled for April 15 with those who will be working on the rail trail.
- Three sealed bids for sand have been received. Those will be opened at the April 21 meeting.
- No weight restriction limits have been posted on Town roads.
- The road crew will now switch to 10 hour days, 4 days per week, as in previous summers.
- Gravel reported on a problem area on private property along Brook Road where the bank is sliding down. The State engineer will speak with the landowner.
- In order to proceed with work on the Brook Road culvert, easements must be obtained. The Town has encountered difficulty in determining actual ownership of a corner of the affected

land. After much effort, the final option appears to be having a survey completed. A crew can do the work next week. Cost of the survey would come out of the Class 3 construction budget. Motion by Lee to engage surveyors to determine ownership of land impacted by the culvert project. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Town Administrator's Report: Szott gave a brief overview of some of the activities in which he has been involved. Szott attended several webinars, meetings, and chats hosted by State agencies, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns on various topics relevant to Town governance. Szott also met with the AARP - Vermont representative regarding the AARP Community Challenge grant application process for 2021.

New Business

Lamoille Area Health and Humans Service Response Command Center (LAH2S-RCC):

Greg Stefanski explained that the organization is relatively new, having been established early on during the COVID pandemic. Since Vermont does not have a county-wide government system, it is particularly important for this group to address essential issues such as food, housing, employment, medical care, and mental health/substance misuse.

Emily Rosenbaum serves as the Public Information Officer. Her weekly newsletters reach about 600 individuals and organizations. She noted that the United Way of Lamoille County website has a Resource Page that provides helpful information for folks on many topics. The board is hopeful the group will continue after the pandemic subsides.

Law Enforcement Committee Status: Rick Harkin and Andy Duff reported on their recent activities as members of the Committee. It was understood the Committee was ending their fact finding, and would enter into the report-writing stage. Disagreements between a couple of long-time Committee members resulted in the sudden resignation of the chairman. Another member, also from Johnson, resigned for a different reason. Duff and Harkins consider the Committee defunct. The board noted there is still work to do to determine what options are available to Wolcott for law enforcement services. Harkins and Duff will continue as a Wolcott committee to investigate policing options, coordinating with the Town Administrator. Information can then be brought before the board. It was noted that voters in March approved a budget with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office for 2021-2022. The Committee would be exploring options for 2022-2023. Szott will request copies of any reports available from the original committee.

Town Generator: The generator at Town Office required minor repair, but is now functioning properly. Overall, the generator is in very good condition.

Sterling View - Revolving Loan Fund: Each year the Town receives money from a revolving loan fund based upon an agreement entered into years ago. The funds received are not tax dollars. Each year the board must designate where the funds should be deposited. This year's amount is \$3,671.09. The board discussed various options. Motion by Klein that of the Hyde Park Wolcott revolving loan funds received, \$2,000 be deposited in the Town Office Equipment fund, with the remainder going to the capital fund. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Recreation Committee: Gillen, Chair, informed the board that the Committee wants to make improvements to the School Street ball field during this fiscal year. He explained that the sod needs to be removed from the infield, sand added to the area, and sod replaced. The cost may be \$1,000 but Gillan is waiting for a call back to get the actual cost. The Recreation Committee was appropriated \$2,000 for this year. Also the group wants to have a portable toilet at the School Street ball field. That cost may be \$600 or \$700 for the season. The Athletic Association will be contacted to determine whether they will pay the cost of the portable toilet, and whether they have other plans. They, too, were appropriated \$2,000 for this fiscal year.

Gillan said the planters that have in the past been placed in the parking lot by the Post Office could be placed around Town Office, or used for the community garden project. Gillan stated that if the Recreation Committee has funds remaining in this year's budget, there is no objection to the remainder going towards the community garden project. The community garden project would like to purchase eight raised beds for a cost of \$790, and 6 yards of soil to be ready by the beginning of this year's planting season. Motion by Klein that from any remaining funds in the Athletic Association and Recreation Committee, \$1,300 be redirected to the community garden project. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. Szott noted that the AARP Community Challenge grant application is due April 14, prior to the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting. Any funding for the community garden project dovetails with the grant application.

Transfer Station Update: The board is keeping an eye on revenues at the transfer station since the schedule change to Saturdays only from 9:00 to 4:00. Revenues are a couple of hundred dollars lower than this time last year. More people are realizing the transfer station is open later on Saturday. Szott is attempting to contact the DOC to get an idea of when workers will once again be available. There is a volunteer who will assist at the transfer station this summer beginning in June.

Unfinished Business

NEMRC Software Agreement: It was determined that the annual statement the Town received from NEMRC is a flat fee, and is not negotiable regardless of how many programs are used.

Use of Town Hall for Girl Scout Troop: Due to current COVID directives, the Town Office is not available for meetings of the Girl Scout troop. The board discussed other options. Motion by Lee to allow the Girl Scout troop to meet at Town Hall, without fee, on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and revisit the issue in two months. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Town/Informational Meeting Questionnaire - Discussion: There were 21 responses to the Front Porch Forum survey seeking opinions on holding a regular Town Hall, Australian ballot, or a combination in the future. The board would like more responses and discussed ideas. One concern is that people who do not use the internet may not be getting their opinions heard. The survey can be posted again on Front Porch Forum, and paper copies of the survey can be made available for those conducting business or voting at Town Office.

Adopt Rules of Procedure: The board discussed the Rules of Procedure. Motion by Klein to accept the Rules of Procedure as written. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Personnel Policy Revision: Szott stated he has solicited board review on the proposed changes made to the Policy so far. There are two other sections on which work needs to be done before the final proposal is ready for board consideration and final vote.

Harris + Allen, Gardner, and Tallman Deeds (Brook Rd): This matter was discussed under Highway Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting April 21, 2021