

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

June 16, 2021

Wolcott Town Office/Zoom/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, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee
Employees: Randall Szott, Belinda Harris Clegg, Dean Mercier, Deb Klein
Technical Assistance: Dolan Patrick
Public: Lucien Gravel
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: A request for waiver of the Town Hall rental fee was added to New Business.

Recess for North Wolcott Ball Field Visit (Asset Management Plan): The meeting was recessed at 6:02 p.m. to visit the ball field. The meeting resumed at 6:34 p.m.

Approve Minutes of June 2, 2021: Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of June 2.
Seconded by Lee. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Harris Clegg noted a potential safety hazard with Wolcott Ballet students being dropped off or picked up from Town Hall. For safety reasons, the two parking spots designated for the Town Hall should be used rather than parking in front of the Post Office. Martin stated there is a sign regarding parking restrictions that appears on both sides of the door to Town Hall. A prior attempt to create a "safe way" to walk garnered complaints from citizens. Martin will address the topic at the Wolcott Ballet's next board meeting.

Highway Department

Reassign Paving Money and Bridge Repair Money: At the June 2, 2021 meeting a motion was approved to reassign \$46,000 from Class 2 and Class 3 construction funds to the paving fund balance for 2021-2022. After review and discussion, that action needs to be scrapped. Motion by Lee to reassign \$46,000 from this year's Highway Department paving budget to the paving budget for 2021-2022. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. Discussion ensued regarding bridge maintenance. Motion by Klein to reassign \$6,700 from this year's bridge maintenance budget to the bridge maintenance budget for 2021-2022. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Sand Pile Relocation: The public access sand pile must be relocated because it is in the rail trail right-of-way. Alternative locations were suggested. It was also suggested that the sand pile be covered in the winter so that it does not freeze. Location of the sand pile will be left in the discretion of the Road Foreman.

Town Administrator's Report: Szott reported on webinars he has attended on topics relevant to the Town. One of the webinars, hosted by Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), discussed how American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds can be used. VLCT has designated a specific individual that Towns may consult with questions.

New Business

North Wolcott Ball Field Visit Discussion (Asset Management Plan): Discussion included a brief history of the property. It was noted that the ball field has not been used the last two years, nor is it being used this year. Board members would like to hear of creative ways that the community can use the property. The Town will continue to mow the ball field this summer. The future of the ball field will be revisited after the board completes their assessment of all Town properties.

Update From Animal Control Officer: Dean Mercier, Wolcott's Animal Control Officer (ACO), updated the board on an on-going dog problem where there are approximately 13 dogs at one residence being rented on East Hill Road. The ACO has visited the property as many as 30 times in the past year to address the excessive barking issue. A ticket was issued some time ago. That was paid. The excessive barking continues. It was pointed out that 20 minutes of continuous barking violates Wolcott's Animal Control Ordinance. The board recommends the ACO ticket the dog owners more aggressively.

Town Hall Rental - Request to Waive Fee/Deposit: The Town Clerk received a request from Women of Wolcott - Community Garden Committee, to rent Town Hall for a "tag sale" fundraiser on Saturday, July 10. All proceeds will go to Wolcott's Community Garden. The group requests the board waive the rental fee and deposit. Motion by Lee to waive the Town Hall rental fee and deposit for the group's fundraiser. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All in favor.

ARPA Money Authorized Individual: The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is providing Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery funds. In order to request funds, an Authorized Representative must be designated. Motion by Klein that the Selectboard Chair serve as the Authorized Representative. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The Chair will report back to the board on whether other individuals are needed to provide information on the portal.

Cash Management 2022 Line of Credit: Treasurer, Harris Clegg, outlined for the board two options for this year. First, the Town can borrow up to \$400,000 from Union Bank with a 0.95% interest rate beginning July 1, 2021. This is similar to what has been done the past few years. A second option would be an anticipation note. Motion by Lee to go with the first option. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Hyde Park/Wolcott Revolving Loan Fund Balance: Proceeds from the Sterling View Mobile Home Park investment in the amount of \$22,207.68 have been received and can be deposited. Discussion ensued. Motion by Lee for the \$22,207.68 to be deposited in the capital reserve fund. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All in favor. A requirement that \$5,000 remain in the associated Union Bank checking account has been reduced to \$1,000. Motion by Lee to allow \$1,000 to remain in the checking account for the loan fund, reduced from \$5,000. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee and LCPC Board of Directors -
Appointments: Motion by Martin to continue serving on the Transportation Advisory Committee with Randall Szott, Town Administrator, serving as the alternate. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. Motion by Klein to reappoint Maxfield English to a three-year term on the Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All in favor.

Unfinished Business

Sheriff Contract: Klein reported that the Town's contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office is under review. The Town is pursuing possible bids for law enforcement services from the Hardwick and Morrystown Police Departments. Klein and Rick Harkins, on behalf of the Wolcott Law Enforcement Committee, along with representatives from Johnson and Hyde Park, met with Sheriff Marcoux on June 15 and toured the Sheriff's Office facilities. Marcoux will meet with the Wolcott Law Enforcement Committee, as well as the Three Town Law Enforcement Committee, at their next meetings. No action taken on the contract at this time.

Personnel Policy Revision: Szott noted changes that were made regarding employee contribution to health insurance. Following a meeting with full-time employees, questions arose about making Veteran's Day a holiday, and the purpose and impact of a job performance evaluation. Szott will revisit the language used to describe the procedure to reflect that it is more of a conversation than an evaluation. Holidays were discussed. Motion by Klein to add one "floating" holiday for full-time employees. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. With a floating holiday, it will be in the discretion of the employee which holiday they wish to take off in addition to those already offered.

Asset Management Plan: Matter was tabled.

Harris + Allen, Gardner, and Tallman Deeds (Brook Rd.): Matter was tabled.

Adjourn: Motion by Lee to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - July 7, 2021

