

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes November 17, 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: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Public: Dolan Patrick, Ruthanna Demag, Jim Holton, Brett Eagan, Joe Cotten,
Monica Cross, Kate Wanner

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of November 3, 2021: Motion by Lee to approve the Minutes of November 3. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence:

- The board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Bill Cotten.
- Martin noted that signage is going up on either side of the School Street bridge. The one-lane bridge, with the new signage, will allow two-way traffic by tomorrow afternoon.
- Ruthanna Demag, member of the Schoolhouse Revitalization Committee, expressed excitement following the Committee's first meeting. She is pleased that sufficient water and septic exists to allow for a cafe with indoor seating, and for a historic center. Damag noted she has heard a lot of support from the community about moving forward with the proposed project.

2022-2023 Budget Proposals:

- Demag, Library Trustee, presented to the board a written budget proposal for the Library. While some line items decreased, there is a slight overall increase. The board accepted the draft budget of \$9,925. Damag noted there has been positive community feedback regarding the new location in the depot building. Damag reviewed some of the upcoming Library programs, including the Gingerbread House event on December 18. A full list of proposed events will be posted on the bulletin board at Town Office.
- The board received a written budget proposal from Kee Gillan on behalf of Parks & Recreation, requesting \$1,000, which is half of last year's budget. The board will follow up with Gillan with any questions.
- The board discussed the need for a replacement for Szott, who resigned as Town Administrator. The board will work on a budget, and continue the discussion.
- Jim Holton, Fire Chief, and Brett Eagan, First Captain and the Department's Treasurer, submitted a written budget proposal seeking level funding. The Fire Department does not foresee any large purchases on the horizon.

Selectboard review/action

Town Office Plowing Bids: Klein reported that two bids were received by the November 15 deadline. K & J Property Management, Hardwick, submitted a bid for \$100 per plow. JL and Co. Property Management, Morrisville, bid \$55 per plow and should a second plow be needed in the same day, that would be at a rate of \$25. Both bids included shoveling. Motion by Klein to accept the bid from JL and Co. Property Management to plow the municipal office and buildings, and shovel as stated in the bid. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The board discussed retaining the services of JL and Co. for other jobs as well to include extending the vent on the roof of Town Office.

Tax Payment Plans:

- The board received an update on the tax payment plan for Penny Wells. Some of the back taxes have been paid by an individual who is purchasing one of her mobile homes.
- Cresta Perkins will start making payments again on November 23, 2021.

Select Town Representative for Tax Sale: Motion by Martin to appoint Belinda Harris Clegg to represent the Town at the upcoming tax sale. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Annual Town Report: Martin provided an update on the Town Report. Martin and Deb Klein will focus on putting the Report together for publication, and inserting winning photos from the photo contest.

Special Town Meeting Vote Results - next steps: At the November 10 meeting, the votes were 110 to 38 in favor of pursuing a Town Forest. Kate Wanner, The Trust for Public Land, provided the board with more information on next steps. The grant application is due in two weeks. If the grant is awarded, then a Management Committee can be formed. Sample management plans are available for review.

East Hill Property - update: The Town has sole rights to the property, and it should no longer be occupied.

Errors and Omissions: Motion by Klein to accept the request of the Listers to make a change to the Grand List regarding the Kapusta property. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

Budget: Klein presented to the board a pie chart reflecting how the Town's current budget is allocated. The board discussed future budgetary concerns.

Community Garden/Park - update on skating rink: As part of the AARP grant, the kiddie skating rink kit has been set up behind the Library. Jim Holton stated the Fire Department will fill it with water this week.

Adjourn: Motion by Klein to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - December 1, 2021