

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

Minutes

December 28, 2016

All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard;
Please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Richard Lee, Eric Furs
Members Absent: Bessie Martin, Kim Gravel
Town Employees: Linda Martin
Public: Chad Roy, Bruce Wheeler
Reporter: None

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Historic Preservation Grant – Not Approved:** The Board along with Chad and Bruce discussed the Old School House Grant denial letter by the State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Council on Historic Preservation. The letter stated that out of the forty-eight applications submitted, only fifteen were awarded. It was mentioned in the letter that a contact through the State is available to discuss how to strengthen the application if the grant program is funded again next year. Chad also stated that they will research what projects were chosen and if any were similar to Wolcott's. The committee stated that they will apply again in 2017, but also plan to discuss fundraising initiatives. The Board reiterated that since the grant was not approved, the matching \$20,000 is not available as that was the condition of the town matching funds to the grant.
- **Lamoille County Conservation District – Request for Membership:** A letter from the LCCD was received requesting support. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to give \$35.00 to support the LCCD. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.
- **2016 Equalization Study Results:** The Board reviewed the results of this study. Belinda explained that these positive results will help with the tax rate for the school. The Equalized Education Grand List valued the town at \$145, 446,622 which places the town at 102.54% for the Common Level of Appraisal since the town lists itself at \$149,147,305. The letter states that any amount less than 100 % shows that the property is listed below fair market value and if the property is less than 80% a reappraisal of the properties would be necessary.

Old School House Committee:

- **Inventory of School House Contents:** Chad Roy and Bruce Wheeler were present to review and discuss the inventory of contents of the Old School House that Bruce comprised. Linda recommended that the Historic Society be asked first if they would like any items on the list. After a brief discussion, it was decided that a memo will be sent out to all Boards and Committees including the fire department and Athletic Association to see if they are interested in any of the items on the list. The committee will double check on some of the doors that were listed to see if they can

be used in the reconstruction. The deadline will be January 18, 2017 before the list is advertised on Front Porch Forum and to other places such as the Green Mountain Technical Center and Resource.

- **Approval – Lead Training:** The Board encouraged the committee to find workshops and training to participate in. The committee is unsure on the date of their next meeting. The Board also suggested that the committee do a presentation that could possibly include a display for Town Meeting.

Bruce Wheeler – Discussion on Website: Bruce handed out copies of his thoughts on the need to rework the town website. Discussion. Belinda encouraged that Richard and Eric go on the town website and see what their thoughts are on the set up of the site since Belinda feels that it is working just fine and they have not received any other complaints. Belinda informed Bruce that they are doing backups that he questioned on his list and explained that the website originated from a basic grant. Belinda told Bruce that they will inform him of Eric and Richard’s thoughts once they have visited the site.

BUDGET HEARINGS

- **Town Clerk’s Office:** Linda reviewed the Town Clerk’s Office line items that comprise the Town Clerk’s Office budget. She asked for an increase of \$1169 due to insurance rates increasing as well as office supplies and computer expenses. Linda did lower her recording fees as well as newspaper notices, training and telephone.
- **Town Budget:** The Board along with Linda reviewed the proposed budget by going through each department line item by line item. Changes and additions were made after discussion. Linda provided a Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report dated July 2015 through June 2016 for comparison. The anticipated revenues were reviewed as well. A discussion on the Fund Balance was discussed. It was agreed to offset the tax rate with \$35,000 from the fund balance. Linda will make the necessary changes and will email a draft of the budget to the Selectboard.

Comments from the Community: None.

Approve the Minutes of December 7, 2016: Discussion. Motion by Belinda to approve the minutes as read with the name correction from Ed Lowell to Don Lowell who was in attendance for the meeting. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.

New Business:

- **Designate Representative for January 23, 2017 Tax Sale:** Discussion. Motion by Belinda to nominate Linda Martin as representative for the upcoming tax sale. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.
- **Update on LCSD Cost Sharing Patrol:** Belinda explained that Wolcott, Hyde Park and Johnson sent a letter to the Eden Selectboard asking that they share in the cost of the patrol performed by the LCSD, since the town has been requiring a high number of calls made to the department requiring them to respond. The Board answered the letter stating that they will ask the voters at town meeting.
- **Approval for Municipal Planning Grant:** Belinda explained that the Municipal Planning Grant was received and approved and now she will accept it.

- **Zoning Fee Schedule – Add New Fee:** The Board read a letter from Tom Martin explained that due to new zoning regulations creating new Zoning Districts that a variety of permitted usages that previously required a conditional use permit have no posted fee for this type of permit. He recommended that a category be added to the Fee Schedule, Permitted Businesses/Services with a fee of \$40 to \$60. He attached a copy of the table of uses and the fee schedule. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to add a new category to the Zoning Fee Schedule with a fee of \$50 (a \$40 base fee with a \$10 recording fee). Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.

Old Business:

- **Land Sale on Baldwin Brook Road:** Belinda informed the Board that she has contacted Ned Houston to perform a core sample from a parcel of Ms. Garabee's land that she wishes to sell and that the town may be interested in. Ned will not be able to perform the core sample until spring. The Board is still interested in the property but will hold off until a core sample can be taken.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Town Hall Permit:** Debra Edwards submitted a town hall permit request for January 15, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. No alcohol will be present. Discussion. Motion by Eric to approve this request. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against.
- **Sign Payroll Orders:** Reviewed and signed.
- **LCSD November Report:** Reviewed. There is a hard copy at the Town Office and it is on the Town's website.
- **Request for New Appropriation:** The Board reviewed a letter that was sent by Big Heavy World requesting an appropriation of \$250. It was explained in the letter that they serve communities to get them involved in music and continue to support them to keep them involved. Discussion. Tabled until research into the organization can be performed by contacting River Arts and whether they serve or have served any Wolcott residents.
- **Proclamation – School Choice Week:** The Board reviewed and discussed a proclamation request memorandum that they received from the president of the National School Choice Week which is January 22, 2017 through January 28, 2017. All schools listed who are involved are out of State charter schools. Discussion. No action was taken. This will be forwarded to the school board.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Belinda to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against. The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.