

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes**

September 7, 2016

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

Members Present: Belinda Clegg, Bessie Martin, Eric Furs, Kim Gravel
Members Absent: Richard Lee
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Skip Patten, Mark Foster, Bernard Earle, Tuffy Audet
Public: Greg Williams, Bruce Wheeler, Don Lowell, Bill Cotton, Maria Stadtmueller, Chad Roy, Adrian Schultz
Reporter: None
Correspondent: Val Mason

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Review and Sign Petition Order with Skip's Approval**
- **Delegation of Authority by Selectboard to Accept Service for the Purposes of Act 250 Application Notices**
- **Right of Way concern from Robert Hundley**

Adrian Schultz – Extension of Tax Payments: Ms. Schultz appeared before the Board to request an extension of her overdue taxes totaling \$2630.37. She presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to be posted to her account immediately. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to keep the remainder of Ms. Schultz tax bill in house with the agreement that it be paid in full with interest by November 30, 2016. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

School House Restoration Committee: The Committee started off by fielding questions from the Board. The Committee's members are all in favor of restoring the existing School House if possible although they stated that a lot of time and energy is still needed before any real plan can be proposed to the Board and then to the tax payers. After much discussion it was decided that the next steps will be to complete a check list of the building by professionals to check asbestos, lead, electrical and by the Fire Marshall. All professionals and volunteers will sign a written waiver stating that they are aware of the unsafe conditions of the building as per the town's liability insurance carrier. The immediate needs of the building are a new roof and the wood supporting the building needs to be repaired. The committee is aware of a \$20,000 matching grant and will continue to search for grants that are available to help offset the cost to the town. Fundraisers were also discussed. The survey that has been circulating was touched upon. Thirty-three tax payers have submitted their responses and all are in favor of restoring the school house and they have received many offers to help in some way. Sub-committees forming and the hiring of grant writers if needed were discussed. The committee will be placed on the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the findings from the check list on the building that is to be completed in the meantime and Belinda will also reach out to find a recommended general contractor to discuss necessary phases.

Linda Martin – Issues: Linda started off by saying that the town office feels frustrated, demoralized and unappreciated by the Selectboard. She feels that the Board is disengaged and keeps adding their duties

to the town such as the spread sheet to keep track of road complaints from residents that she feels are not being addressed and wants the residents to call the Board instead. She mentioned the 7 flat tires that residents received on West Hill and Town Hill and another complaint that has been received by the town three times stating that his calls are not getting returned by Skip. Eric and Kim were not aware of that many. Eric stated that these complaints are the reason that they need to be recorded and mentioned that a different vendor used for material. Eric stated that the roads are a Road Foreman issue and there is an obvious breakdown of communication. The chloride issue was brought up as part of the problem and Mark again mentioned the shortage of chloride at the time. She stated that she had asked a Selectboard member to speak to Tuffy regarding a \$43 overage and she said the member told her "no". She wants the Selectboard to be more involved in the day to day activities of the town as they are ultimately responsible. She wants the Selectboard to oversee and treat the landfill as a business, to oversee the Highway Department and realize that being a Board member involves more than meeting two times per month and signing orders. She said that the orders need to be gone through. Eric asked for a job description for Selectboard members as he and Kim feel that they were not trained or made aware of these responsibilities and involvement. Eric asked that he and Kim be sent a copy of the Selectboard handbook as he has become frustrated by having all of this thrown at him and Kim at once.

Tuffy Audet – Transfer Station: Tuffy Audet asked for the Board's permission to have a former Department of Correction's worker volunteer at the Transfer Station when she is without help as it is too much for one person. She stated that he is a huge help and his work allows for the recycling container to be hauled away every 2 weeks instead of once per week. Belinda mentioned that she had checked with the town's insurance carrier and that as long as the volunteer signs a waiver releasing the town of any liability if an injury occurs on his self. Belinda then informed the Board and Tuffy that a recent audit showed that all transactions that were randomly selected to review for the Transfer Station were either over or under the correct amount. The auditor stated that this is not acceptable. Tuffy was reminded that every customer must receive a receipt whether one is wanted or not and that this requires her to enter the office with each customer making others wait their turn. Better management of the Station must be overseen by the Board as it is being mismanaged per the auditor and creates problems for the town office. Motion by Eric to prepare a waiver for Scott, the volunteer to sign while assisting Tuffy at the Transfer Station if and when no other volunteer is present. Seconded by Bessie. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

Claude Cross – Possible Employment: Claude was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Tabled.

Mark Foster – Salary Increase: Motion by Belinda to enter into executive session at 7:34 p.m. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. The Board came out of executive session at 7:52 p.m. Motion by Belinda to give Mark a 2 % salary increase as well as give the remaining full time town employees a 2% increase in salary except for Skip as he already received his. Seconded by Bessie. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. An amendment was made to this motion stating that all raise negotiations are closed until July 2017. Motion by Belinda. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

Skip Patten – Pinnacle Lane, Reed Road and Paving: Skip provided a report that was written by Rob Moore regarding Pinnacle Lane and Reed Road as to what is needed before being considered by the town to take over the roads. The homeowners will be responsible for this cost and to notify the town when the work has been completed if they choose to have the road work done. Discussion. Motion by Belinda to accept Rob's report and to send a letter to each resident on these roads. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. Discussion on paving School Hill was next as Skip had an estimate from

Gray's Paving. The Board has decided to wait on this paving job. Skip will get an estimate to pave School Street. Skip asked about the highway department complaints. Belinda informed him that the Board is working on a better communication and tracking system.

Comments from the Community: Greg voiced his concerns regarding how the Old School House Committee is going about getting their two options to propose to the town and the cost that will be involved.

Approve the Minutes of August 17, 2016: Discussion. Corrections to be made: Page 2, under "Skip", line 5 should read "to hear back from Jeff Smith of Verizon on the message that he left". Page 2, under "Skip" line 12 should read "2%". Page 2, under "Public Hearing" line 2 remove the "s" from Amendments. Page 4, under "Review Correspondence/Sign, Email MSI" line 6 should read "is assessed at". Page 4, under "LCSD" line 1, should read "is on". Page 4, under VTrans Grant Program", line 4 should read "that all businesses located in Wolcott are in good standing". Motion by Belinda to accept the minutes with the above corrections included. Seconded by Kim. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

New Business:

- **LCSD – Discuss Meeting:** Tabled until the next meeting.

Review Correspondence/Sign:

- **Better Back Roads Grant Agreement – Action:** Discussion. Motion by Belinda to sign the agreement for the Highway Department work on Sand Hill in the amount of \$20,000 with the town paying \$5000 in-kind. Seconded by Bessie. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.
- **Pre-School Lease – Action:** Discussion. The lease states that the Wolcott School will pay \$900 per month with the option for re-negotiation in December 2017. The School Board accepted the lease as presented to them. Motion by Belinda to sign the lease. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against. Lease signed by Eric and to be notarized by Linda before sending to the School Board for their signature. Once all parties have signed the original lease will be located at the Town Clerk's Office.

Amendments to the Agenda:

- **Review and Sign Petition Order with Skip's Approval:** Discussion. Skip gave his consent to sign the Fairpoint petition order to place poles. Signed by Eric.
- **Delegation of Authority by the Selectboard to Accept Service for the Purposes of Act 250**
Application notices: Tabled until the next meeting. Belinda will email a copy to each Selectboard member to review.
- **Right of Way Letter from Robert Hundley:** A letter was received from Mr. Hundley asking the Selectboard to help re-establish a right of way to their estimated 27 acres on Town Hill. Discussion between the Board and Skip. It was decided that the Selectboard will not assist Mr. Hundley in this.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Belinda to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Eric. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against.

Respectfully submitted by Val Mason.