

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
June 19, 2019**

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard.
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes.

Present: Eric Furs, Michael Davidson, Jennifer Holton-Clapp, Kimberly Gravel,
Richard Lee
Town Employees: Linda Martin, Skip Patten, Bernard Earle, Duncan Hastings
Public: Ryan Bjerke, Kurt Klein
Guest: Danny Hale
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda

Duncan Hastings - TA Position Update: Duncan provided to the board members copies of reports he has prepared to date regarding the Town Administrator (TA) position. Each packet contained a job description; cost of benefits; a bullet point list of why the position is needed; a salary comparison; and a comparison of duties for Town Clerk and TA. Duncan recommends a minimum salary for the TA to be \$50,000. With benefits, that would be \$80,000.

Motion by Eric to set July 10 at 6:00 p.m. as the time for an informational meeting. Second by Richard. Voting: All in favor. The informational meeting will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the TA position prior to the Special Town Meeting that is tentatively set for August 14. The board will need to finalize the Warning at their July 3 meeting. The amount of money requested for the TA position can be pro-rated based upon when the person may start their employment.

Duncan has now completed Phase I of his work with the board. He estimated Phase I would require 38 hours. Duncan is now at 40 hours.

Motion by Eric to amend the Agenda by moving the Fund Balance discussion to the first topic discussed under New Business. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: Ryan asked about the Selectboard's position on traffic for the School Street bridge going only one way. The board has not revisited the issue of having traffic go both ways. Ryan suggested it would be worth revisiting. Eric said he would include Ryan in his emails with Jim Cota of VTrans. Eric indicated that if it were up to the Selectboard, traffic on the bridge would be two-way.

Approval of Minutes: The correction to the May 15 Minutes that appeared in the June 3 Minutes is further corrected to read: "Motion by Eric to approve the request but table the *signing* (not matter) until the proper form is obtained." Motion by Eric to approve the June 3 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Kim. Voting: All in favor.

Danny Hale - Four-wheelers - Open Town Roads: Danny Hale, Executive Director of Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) appeared on behalf of Wolcott residents who had contacted him. Danny described for the Selectboard the purpose and activities of the clubs that make up the State-wide association. Bernard stated there are Wolcott residents who would like

to travel on their ATVs from town to Hyde Park, Craftsbury, Hardwick and other parts of the Northeast Kingdom. In order to do so, roads such as East Elmore Road, East Hill Road or Town Hill Road, West Hill Road, and Gulf Road would need to be opened up to ATV use. Danny noted that VASA has an agreement with VTrans to use small portions of State highways. Johnson, Hyde Park and Hardwick have trails in place. Craftsbury is thinking about it. If approved by the board, a club would be assigned to Wolcott. Resources would be put into the Class 4 roads used through their trail maintenance program. Besides being used for ATVs, the trails are also open to hikers, horses, and bicycles. Club members also help on Green Up Day. The Town can manage the trails however they wish. From the perspective of the Highway Department, Skip is not opposed as long as it is policed. Eric wants to be cautious. Michael has heard from more people who are opposed to opening up the roads to ATVs than are in favor. Depending upon what is heard from citizens, minds could change. Jenn and Kim feel the board can go forward, investigate the options and those in Town can speak. Danny pointed out it is a lengthy process, and could take a year. An Ordinance must be in place. Danny will email to the board members a copy of an Ordinance that VASA suggests to Towns. He can then come back to the Selectboard.

New Business

Fund Balance: Linda stated that the final amount of the fund balance at the end of the fiscal year June 30 will not be known until an audit is completed, but an estimate can be made. Any funds remaining at the end of the year need to be assigned to certain places or it goes to the general fund. Motion by Kim to assign up to \$40,000 from the fund balance towards the proposed TA position, and \$5,000 to the Town equipment fund. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Bids for Sand and Roadside Mowing: Ads will be placed in the *News & Citizen* seeking bids for sand and roadside mowing for the Town.

Review of Road Crew applications: An application has been received. Skip will schedule an interview.

Town Employees - insurance for Highway Foreman: Skip reported he was notified he would be dropped by Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) due to age. However, if he signs up his family plan coverage will continue. Eric stated the Selectboard tried to tackle the insurance issue but it is way over their heads. Linda stated that she could have stayed on BCBS but instead presented an \$11,000 cost saving plan to the board which they had originally accepted but then took away. Motion by Eric to order the 2018 Vermont Municipal Compensation and Benefits Report from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns with the \$75 fee billed to the Town. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Tax Anticipation Note: Linda presented to the Selectboard for signature a form from Union Bank seeking to borrow \$400,000. The Town borrows money each year. This year the Town will make \$3,500 in interest. Motion by Eric to sign the loan application form from Union Bank for \$400,000 in principal with 2.45 % interest. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Unfinished Business

Transfer Station - Update: Motion by Eric to amend the Agenda moving the Transfer Station discussion to Executive Session. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

Review Correspondence

Sign Payroll and other Orders: Done.

Permit for Fireworks: Motion by Eric to approve the permit for fireworks on Keeler Pond Road on July 3, 2019. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

Lamoille County Sheriff's Office - May Report: Received.

Executive Session: Motion by Kim to enter into Executive Session to address a personnel matter. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. The board entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. The board returned from Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be July 3, 2019