

## Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019

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

Present: Eric Furs, Michael Davidson, Richard Lee, Jenn Holton-Clapp  
Absent: Kim Gravel  
Town Employees: Lucien Gravel, Deborah Klein  
Guests: Rob Moore, Paul Marangelo  
Public: Kurt Klein, Monica Cross.

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

### **Amendments to the Agenda:**

**Resolution Request:** Hans Huessy, MSK Attorneys in Burlington, requested in a letter that a resolution be placed on the agenda for the next Town Meeting supporting completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail by 2025. An article published in numerous local papers was attached. The issue will be addressed at the next Selectboard meeting.

**Town Road Log:** It was recently reported to Town Office that an individual living on Jones Lane slid on ice on West Hill Road and struck a tree resulting in damage to his vehicle. Lucien stated that Jones Lane and West Hill Road had been sanded that morning, so he did not know why the accident happened.

**Efficiency Vermont:** Michael recently toured several Town-owned buildings with a representative of Efficiency Vermont. Efficiency Vermont will submit a proposal to the board.

**Additional Budget Proposals:** Emergency Management will be level funded at \$1,200 for 2020-2021 unless changes are made following a meeting with Ryan Bjerke. At the next meeting, Chad Roy and Linda Brady will discuss with the board funding for Historic Preservation.

Lucien presented to the board Highway Department budgets. Michael wants Lucien to stay on as Highway Commissioner to be there for the road crew. Motion by Jenn to approve Lucien's request to purchase four grader tires now. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor. Lucien would like to engage the services of an engineer to address repairs on Brook Road. Lucien was told to check with the engineer providing services on the North Wolcott Road for a quick estimate for the scope of services that would be required on Brook Road.

Discussion ensued regarding the board's process for the budget going forward. The board wants to see the last fiscal year's budget, and actual spending so far this fiscal year for each department. The board needs to determine what the impact will be on taxpayers. The board will finalize the budget at the first meeting in January.

**January Meeting Dates:** Since the first Wednesday in January is the 1st, New Year's Day, it was suggested the meeting dates for January be changed from the regular meeting dates of the first and third Wednesdays. Motion by Eric to adjust the Selectboard meeting dates in January to the second Wednesday, January 8, and the fourth Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Presentation Schedule:** Motion by Eric to amend the Agenda to have Paul Marangelo give his presentation prior to Rob Moore as requested. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Paul Marangelo - MOU regarding Fort Hill bridge removal:** Paul Marangelo, Senior Conservation Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, gave an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Nature Conservancy and the Town. The MOU clarifies the parties' respective roles and responsibilities related to removing and disposing of the Fort Hill Road bridge and restoration of the demolished abutment sites. The estimated time period for this work will be between June and October, 2020. There is no cost to the Town. Motion by Eric to sign the MOU on behalf of the Town. Seconded by Jenn. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Rob Moore - Final report on Road Erosion Inventory:** Rob Moore, Regional Transportation Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), distributed an 18-page inventory and report on road erosion for the Town of Wolcott as part of the 2019 Better Roads Program. The inventory and implementation schedule is required for grant funding and permit compliance. Of the approximately 56 miles of town-owned public roads, approximately 18.6 miles of hydrologically connected road are in need of work over the next 20 years. Current priorities over the next five years would include work on segments of: Morey Hill Road, East Elmore Road, Brook Road, Turcotte Road, Jones Road, and East Hill Road, at an estimated cost of \$400,000. Rob pointed out this is a living document and is subject to change. Motion by Jenn to approve the Town of Wolcott Road Erosion Inventory Report pending edits to the five-year work plan schedule and costs. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor. A summary of the report will be included in the Town Report.

Jenn stated the Town should have a five-year strategic plan, and this Report should be one element of the plan. Funds should be set aside each year. It was suggested by the public that a committee be formed to work on a long-term maintenance plan.

**Approve Minutes of December 4, 2019 Selectboard Meeting:** Michael asked that the Minutes be amended by adding a sentence to the second paragraph under Comments to the Community: "Todd was only paid when he worked." Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as amended. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**Approve Minutes of December 11, 2019 Special Selectboard Meeting:** Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Michael. Voting: Jenn and Richard abstained since they had not been present for the meeting. Without a quorum, the Motion failed. The matter will be addressed again at the January 8, 2020 meeting.

**New Business:**

**Contract with Repro Graphics:** The board was presented with a contract from Repro Graphics for preparation of the Town Report. The quote for 650 copies, assuming 120 pages, would be \$2,270 or \$3.49 per copy. Motion by Eric to sign the contract for 2019. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor. The Town pays only for actual pages.

**Loan for road repairs - bid:** One bid was received offering terms for a Capital Improvement Note to repair roads damaged by flooding in October, 2019. The Treasurer is asked to seek additional bids that will then be addressed at the January 8 meeting.

**Lamoille County Final 2020-2021 Budget Meeting:** The County Budget Meeting will be held at the Lamoille County Courthouse on January 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The cost for the Town of Wolcott is up slightly from last year.

**Unfinished Business:**

**ADA Ramp for Town Hall:** A second bid was received for reversing the direction of the handicap ramp at Town Hall. The board will retain the bid in the event the matter is pursued in the future.

**Eviction Proceeding - Town Property on East Hill Road:** There has been no further report from the attorney handling the matter.

**Appropriations for 2020-2021:** Requests are being received, and will be addressed at a future meeting.

**Review Correspondence:**

**Transfer Station Audit Sheets:** Richard stated he has missed meeting with the Transfer Station employee lately, but will get back on schedule shortly.

**Sheriff's Department Report - November:** Received. Eric noted there were 11 directed patrols in Wolcott during that month.

**VLCT News:** The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) publication was received.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Eric to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

*Selectboard January meeting dates:*

*January 8, 2020  
January 22, 2020*