

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard.

Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Eric Furs, Kimberly Gravel, Michael Davidson, Jenn Holton-Clapp,
Richard Lee
Town Employees: Dillan Cafferky, Deborah Klein
Public: Linda Brady, Kurt Klein, Robert Harris, Monica Cross
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

The meeting was called to order by Eric at 6:08 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Added to the Agenda is a report from Dillan Cafferky, Road Crew Foreman; a discussion regarding the old Town Clerk's building; a proposal from an attorney to represent the Town on tax sales; the Lister, Zoning, and Town Clerk proposed budgets to be discussed under No. 9 of the Agenda.

Report from Road Crew Foreman: Dillan reported that the Assistant Town Clerk is assisting in the creation of new time sheets that will indicate the amount of time the road crew devotes to specific line items such as maintenance, plowing, etc. Dillan informed the board that in the spring the sand screen and the tag-along trailer may need to be overhauled or replaced. Dillan stated he is keeping his eye on the salt reserve, and that there is a good bit of salt in store. Dillan reported the road crew is working well together. Dillan was informed there is a pot hole on Elmore Pond Road, near Douglas Road, that needs attention.

Old Town Clerk's Office: It was brought to the board's attention that the water system for the old Town Clerk's building on Vt Rt 15 is connected to a neighbor's dwelling. The building, which went to tax sale, had its water shut off by the former owner resulting in frozen pipes at the neighbor's house. According to the deed, the Town was responsible for the repair. The board will look into this issue further.

Attorney for Tax Sales: A proposal was received from an attorney willing to represent the Town in future tax sales. Motion by Eric to retain the services of William Boyd Davies, with the Barton firm of May & Davies, to handle tax sales on behalf of the Town as needed. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Approve Minutes of December 11, 2019: Approval of the Minutes was tabled. The audio tape of the meeting will be reviewed. Approval of the Minutes will be considered at a future meeting.

Approve Minutes of December 18, 2019: Motion by Eric to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor. Kim recused herself since she was not present for the meeting. After subsequent discussion, Motion by Eric to rescind his Motion to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Richard. Voting: 4 in favor, Kim recused herself since she was not present for the meeting. Approval of the Minutes will be considered at a future meeting.

Historic Preservation - Chad Roy, Linda Brady: A one-page handout entitled, Town of Wolcott Historic Preservation Budget Recommendation 2020, was distributed. Linda spoke on behalf of the Committee. The School House Restoration Committee is recommending the board

create a line item in the Town budget for continuing support of historic preservation in Wolcott. They recommend that a line item for historic preservation be implemented as a yearly commitment to preserve Wolcott's past as outlined in Section 5 of the Town Plan.

There are two grants through the Historic Preservation Trust of Vermont currently available to the Town. Each grant is for \$500 and would require a matching contribution from the Town for \$500. One would be for assessment, and the other would provide an engineering report for costs to repair the foundation of the school house. Further, the Committee is asking \$8,500 be placed in a reserve fund for matching grant awards and application procurement. The concern is that costs for repair and restoration will grow exponentially the longer it is put off.

The Committee recommends the Town form a Historic Preservation Commission. Such a Commission is required for the Town to form a Certified Local Government. Doing so would open up new grant and funding opportunities for historic preservation.

The board thanked Linda and Chad for the information they provided. No action taken.

Comments from the Community: A citizen expressed concern about trying to save the old school house, stating the depot building is in better shape. It was further stated that historic preservation can be good for some things, but comes with a lot of rules. The board acknowledged that the building means different things to different people.

New Business:

Canon copier lease expiration: The lease for the copier used in Town Office is about to expire. The question is whether to purchase the current copier, or enter into a new lease with a new copier. The board has further questions. Motion by Eric to table the matter. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Resolution supporting completion of rail trail: Eric will follow up with questions he has before action is taken.

Eviction Proceeding - Town Property on East Hill Road: The attorney handling the matter informed the board that the person residing on this property refused service of the notice to vacate. Eric will work with the attorney on next steps.

Loan bids for road repairs: The Town sought bids for a capital improvement note to repair roads damaged due to the Halloween storm. In addition to the bid from Union Bank, a bid received from Community National Bank in Morrisville was reviewed. Motion by Jenn to accept the bid from Union Bank for a five-year loan in the amount of \$250,000 with annual principal and interest payments of \$53,270.80 with a fixed interest rate of 2.15%. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor. There is no prepayment penalty.

Posting of video of Selectboard meetings: Kurt reported that the videotape of this evening's meeting would be edited by Green Mountain Access Television (GMATV). GMATV will then post the file to a newly created YouTube account for access. Kurt asked if the board wished to have a link to the YouTube account appear on the Town's website for easy access. Motion by Michael to approve having a link to the YouTube video appear on the Town's website. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Engineer services for Brook Road repairs: Motion by Eric to table this item to clarify which road may need engineering services. Seconded by Michael. Voting: All in favor.

Motion by Eric to amend the Agenda to move No. 10, Review Correspondence, ahead of No. 9, Budget and Appropriations for 2020-2021. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Review Correspondence:

Sheriff's Department - December report: Received.

VLCT - PACIF Grants and Scholarships: Received.

VLCT - Town Meeting trainings: Received.

Vermont Department of Taxes: The board reviewed a copy of the 2019 Equalization Study figures.

Vermont Department of Health - trainings: Received.

VLCT News: Received.

Budget and Appropriations for 2020-2021:

Planning & Zoning proposed budget: Following discussion, the board agreed to a figure of \$12,875. A final decision will be made later when the entire budget is put together.

Listers: Following discussion, the board agreed to a figure of \$25,184. A final decision will be made later when the entire budget is put together.

Historic Preservation: The board will consider whether to create a Historical Preservation Commission, or whether the Committee should prepare an Article to appear on the Warning for Town Meeting.

Town Clerk: Jenn presented a document for discussion on budgeting for Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk/Bookkeeper, and Town Administrator. Insurance for these positions was also discussed.

Michael stated the board will need to hold a Special Selectboard Meeting on Wednesday, January 15 to further address the budget for 2020-2021.

Adjourn: Motion by Eric to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Special Selectboard Meeting, Budget - January 15, 2020

Next regular Selectboard meeting - January 22, 2020

The regular meeting schedule of first and third Wednesdays will resume in February.

