

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 1, 2020

Wolcott Town Office/Phone-in - 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Mike Davidson, Linda Martin, Richard Lee, Kurt Klein
Absent: Kim Gravel
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Lucien Gravel, Dillan Cafferky, Deb Klein
Guests: Meghan Rodier, Sally Gardner, Gordon Young, Matt Foster, Ruthanna Demag, Dawn Cochran
Public: Ryan Arnold, Hellen Billow, Cindy Lowell, Bill Cotten, Monica Cross, Betty Lou Streck

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approve Minutes of June 17, 2020

Motion by Linda to approve the Minutes of June 17 as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Transfer Station helper

The board interviewed Ryan Arnold for the Transfer Station helper position. Motion by Kurt to hire Ryan Arnold for the position through August 2nd. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All 4 in favor. Ryan will start work this weekend.

Comments from the Community: A resident submitted a photo of a stove, pot, and four tires that had been dumped outside of the Transfer Station on Wednesday.

Library Discussion: Sally Gardner, Librarian at the Glee Merrit Kelley Library, was present along with Trustees, Dawn Cochran and Ruthann Demag, School Board Chair Gordon Young, and Matt Foster, Principal at Wolcott Elementary School. On behalf of the Library Trustees, Ruthanna spoke in favor of the Library moving from the school to the Depot building next to Town Office. It is anticipated that all of the adult books and about half of the children and young adult books will be moved, hopefully by November. Among the advantages discussed, the new location can serve as a social hub for the community, and a spot for events and programs. The playground can be open to the community. There could also be a community garden if folks are interested. Matt pointed out the entire collection is online, so there would be no access problem. Sally might spend one day per week at the school, but would be primarily at the Depot location. The Depot building would also allow easier access for community members than at the school. Gordon recognizes the benefits of having the library in the school, but pointed out the school can use the space for expansion. The Library Trustees will oversee the transition.

Meghan Rodier, LCPC: Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), reviewed with the board two draft letters of support for the Town to consider regarding the Wolcott floodplain/streambank restoration projects. These projects are

near the Elmore Pond Road bridge, and the North Wolcott recreational field. The letters are needed as part of the block grant applications that LCPC will submit. Motion by Linda for the board to sign the letters of support to be submitted by LCPC as part of the block grant applications seeking funding for the Wolcott projects. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Janitor - Interview: The board interviewed Betty Lou Streck for the position of janitor. Motion by Linda to hire Betty Lou Streck as janitor for 8-10 hours per week at \$17 per hour. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Selectboard Assistant - Discussion: The board initiated a discussion on hiring a part-time Selectboard Assistant. A job description will be created and funding sources identified. The board will have a special meeting next Wednesday, July 8, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Office for further discussion. The only Agenda item will be the Selectboard Assistant position.

Highway Department - Report: The discussion included the status of FEMA reimbursement paperwork, Federal Aid Highway grants, equipment repairs, and possible leasing of equipment. Lease agreement paperwork will be presented for board review at their July 15 meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Mowing bids: Three bids were received in response to the Town's request for bids for mowing and trimming of Town property for a three year period starting July 1. The bids were from Blaisdell Mowing & Yard Work, HC Property Management, and R.C. Landscapes. The low bid was submitted by Blaisdell Mowing & Yard Work. Blaisdell has had the contract in the past and has not raised the rate. Motion by Richard to contract with Blaisdell Mowing & Yard Work for mowing of Town property at \$3,500 per year for three years starting July 1, 2020. Seconded by Linda. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Maintenance of Town Garage and Fire Station: A quote was received from Dial, Inc. for repair work to be done on the Fire Station. Work includes replacing some metal on the roof, work on fascia, and gutters. Motion by Richard to retain Dial, Inc. to complete the repairs on the Fire Station at the quoted price of \$1,031.76. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Policy Updates (Conflict of Interest, Procurement Policy): The board discussed minor changes to the Conflict of Interest Policy. Kurt will follow up with Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to clarify who would be covered by the policy. The board discussed a minor change to the Procurement Policy regarding purchases made by the Highway Department. Motion by Linda to adopt the revised Procurement Policy, effective July 1, 2020 with the change to purchases made by the Highway Department. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Correspondence:

Sheriff's Report - received.

Letter from Monica regarding the Ordinance Regulating the Disposal of Solid Waste and the Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles. Monica suggested a sunset provision be included so the Ordinance would expire at the end of one year. She feels that would allow for more communication during the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that many people do not have internet access. It was pointed out the board has already adopted the Ordinance combining two prior ordinances the Town had. The new Ordinance follows the VLCT template which many other Towns have adopted. The Wolcott Ordinance was modified to address management of free piles, and the fine structure. The former ordinances had been in effect for years, but had not really been enforced. The Town received so many complaints, it was felt the former ordinances needed to be combined and reviewed by VLCT legal department. The process for

adopting the Ordinance has been followed as laid out by VLCT. The Ordinance has been posted on the Town's website as well as several other locations, and has been printed in the *News & Citizen* and the *Hardwick Gazette*. The 45 day period for public comment ends July 18. If a resident disagrees with the Ordinance, the option is to present to the board a Petition signed by at least 5% of registered voters in Wolcott. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is July 15. Comments regarding the new Ordinance may be made during the Comments from the Community portion of the Agenda at that meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Richard to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All 4 in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Special Selectboard meeting - July 8, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Regular Selectboard meeting - June 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.