

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes August 5, 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: Kim Gravel, Mike Davidson, Linda Martin, Richard Lee, Kurt Klein
Employees: Lucien Gravel, Dillan Cafferky, Belinda Harris Clegg, Dean Mercier,
Deb Klein
Public: Franklin Nutt, Linda Reeve, Monica Cross
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

The order of Agenda items were changed to accommodate those present and wishing to speak: moving No. 6 to No. 4, then No. 7 Highway Department. Corley Road to be addressed first under Highway Department, and adding Tim Tyler and Crack filling proposal to the end. Under Correspondence, adding: COVID 19 Directive.

Approve Minutes of July 15 & July 24, 2020: In the July 15 Minutes, under Junk Ordinance, line 4, "in Lamoille County" is removed. Motion by Mike to approve the July 15 Minutes as amended, and approve the July 24 Minutes as written. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Animal Control Officer (ACO): Dean, the ACO, reported on an on-going dog barking situation he has been working on. A citation had been issued to the dog owner, but the problem barking has not been resolved. The board recommended the ACO continue with the legal process and continue to issue citations when warranted.

Highway Department:

Corley Road - Class 4 section: Frank Nutt outlined for the board on-going road access issues he has had with a neighbor on Corley Road. About two years ago, the Selectboard granted permission for the two landowners to work together on the road. Frank stated that has not worked out. Kurt expressed concern that private individuals would be modifying or destroying a Town road. The Selectboard can file a complaint with the Sheriff's Office, and look into other available legal options to resolve the issue. The Highway Department has done some work to the Class 4 portion of the road so it is passable. The road crew will look at boulders that may be in the right of way.

Equipment lease, order: Kurt reported that the lease paperwork for a new excavator and grader has been reviewed and approved by the Town's attorney. The order has been placed for both pieces of equipment. The delivery date should be known by the August 19 meeting.

Truck repairs: J & B had previously estimated repairs on one of the trucks would be \$9,000. A subsequent inspection identified another part that needs to be replaced at a cost of \$700 to \$800. The board authorized the repairs to be made by J & B.

Tim Tyler: Tim has requested a culvert be installed on Morey Hill. Lucien indicated the work should be done within a week and a half or two weeks. Lucien will contact Tim.

Crack filling proposal: The Highway Department sought quotes from various companies to seal cracks in the pavement on Town Hill Road. The only quote received came from Nicom Coating Corporation. Motion by Mike to accept the \$4,000 quote from Nicom to seal cracks on Town Hill Road. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Certificate: Lucien presented to Dillan a Certificate of Appreciation for the great job he is doing. The Selectboard congratulated Dillan, and thanked the road crew for doing a good job.

Junk Ordinance - Petition: Subsequent to the board adopting an updated Junk Ordinance, a Petition was received asking that the board not go forward with the Ordinance. After consulting Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the board understands that the procedure to follow once a Petition is received is to hold a Special Town Meeting within 60 days to allow for a vote. During the COVID 19 pandemic, holding a Special Town Meeting within 60 days is not practical. The current directive of the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office would extend the time period in which such a meeting must be held, as long as it is within this calendar year. VLCT's recommendation is to wait for an updated directive from the SOS Office before holding a Special Town Meeting.

Our current ordinance was reviewed by VLCT. Kurt explained that State legislation has changed since the Town's last junk ordinance was adopted. Those changes make our current ordinance out-of-date, and unenforceable in the Judicial Bureau. That is why the board adopted an updated version. Kurt said he was glad the petitioners raised the issue of junk because the solution has to come from the community itself. There may be a lot of misunderstanding about what is intended with the ordinance. Mike pointed out this will be an opportunity to educate citizens.

Kurt stated that until the Town makes a decision on the ordinance, he feels he is unable to act as Enforcement Officer. Since the current ordinance is unenforceable, he does not want to give false hope to anyone with a complaint. Motion by Kurt to suspend the Junk Ordinance that was adopted by the Selectboard until a date to be determined for a Town vote. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor. Motion by Kurt to suspend the services of the Junk Ordinance Officer until a date to be determined in December. Motion amended by Richard to remove "December" from the motion. Seconded by Mike. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: None.

Unfinished Business:

Keeler Pond: The landowner with concerns regarding the pond did not wish to be on the Agenda. The board assumes the matter has been resolved.

Transfer Station: Linda reported that she spoke with the Executive Director of the Solid Waste District about our Transfer Station. Someone will visit the Transfer Station on Sunday and provide recommendations or advice. The electric fence has been installed to deter the bear from getting into the compost.

Repairs to Fire Station: No bids were received to do the needed work after advertising locally. The Town will continue to look for someone who can perform the repairs.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Per VLCT, the Conflict of Interest Policy would apply to Town employees, but not specifically to elected officials. In order to apply to elected officials, the Town would need a Charter, or an Ordinance. Such an ordinance has never been tested in Vermont courts. Motion by Richard to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All in favor.

Library move to Depot building: Linda reported that the Depot building has been inspected by the Fire Marshall as well as the Town's insurance provider. The recommended changes will be made. The Fire Department pumped water from underneath the building. Efficiency Vermont will be asked to view the building as well. Cleaning and painting of the interior will start soon. The move may take place around the beginning of October.

Eviction proceeding - property on East Hill: Due to the Governor's Directive, no court action will take place on this matter until after August 31, 2020.

Tax Sale: The tax sale will be held at Town Office on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Notice of the sale has been posted.

Selectboard Assistant: The board reviewed the sample job description, along with a consolidated job description suitable for an ad. The salary range will be \$20 to \$25 per hour, depending upon experience, for up to 28 hours per week. The title for the position will be Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard.

Correspondence:

Kurt stated the Town's COVID 19 Directive is out of date regarding how employees work together and other matters. Motion by Kurt to rescind the Town's COVID 19 Directive that was adopted in March. Seconded by Richard. Voting: All in favor.

Executive Session:

Motion by Richard to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All in favor. The board entered Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. Following Executive Session, no action was taken.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - August 19, 2020