

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 20, 2021**

Zoom Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Kurt Billings
Absent: Kim Gravel, Richard Lee
Employees: Randall Szott, Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Under New Business, replace “Authorize DocuSign” topic with “Choose Selectboard Members to Sign Orders.” Under Unfinished Business, add “Janitor.”

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of January 13, 2021: Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 Special Meeting. Seconded by Billings. Discussion: Add “Assigned Fund Balances” to the list of topics discussed by the board. Voting to approve Minutes as amended: All 3 in favor.

Comments from the Community: The Town Clerk received an email from a citizen concerned that going to Australian ballot for Town Meeting would raise taxes. The board is aware that any misinformation in the community regarding the changed format for Town Meeting must be addressed publicly. The board discusses the upcoming Informational Meeting under New Business.

New Business:

Choose Selectboard Members to Sign Orders: Harris Clegg noted that she has encountered some difficulty of late getting payment orders signed in a timely fashion. The board had designated Kim Gravel, Selectboard Chair, as the board member authorized to approve and sign orders. When Gravel is not available, the orders must be signed by a majority, in other words, three board members. The board will continue with the procedure of having three board members, other than the Chair, approve and sign the orders.

Approve Warning: The board discussed the advantages of removing the appropriations for Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad (HERS) and for Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) from the combined appropriations Article, and including both in the Selectboard budget. Motion by Klein to modify the Warning by removing HERS and LCPC from the proposed Article 5 and include both in the Selectboard budget. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor. There will be a total of 15 Articles in the Warning. Motion by Klein to approve the

proposed Warning for March 2, 2021 with modifications. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Town Meeting Logistics - Discussion: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March 2, 2021 Town Meeting will not be held in person. Instead, voting will take place by Australian ballot. This will, of course, preclude the usual floor discussions and any modifications of Articles in the Warning on Town Meeting day. A virtual informational meeting will be held prior to March 2 that will allow the Selectboard to explain how the proposed budget was determined. The public may use this time to get answers to any questions they may have regarding the Warning or how voting will take place. The Zoom software platform will be utilized for the informational meeting. The public may join the meeting by using their computer or telephone. Instructions on how to join the meeting will be posted on the Town's website and notices will be posted, including on Front Porch Forum. Motion by Klein to set Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for the informational meeting. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor. It was noted that the elementary school will hold its informational meeting on Thursday, February 25.

The board intends for postcards to be sent to all eligible voters in Wolcott to let them know they may request a ballot, and the procedure to follow. Completed ballots may be returned to Town Office early, or those ballots may be brought to Town Office and submitted in person on March 2 between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

Janitor: The board discussed and approved hiring a temporary janitor on a limited basis to fill in while the regular janitor is unable to fulfill her duties due to injury.

Selectboard Report: The board reviewed the final draft of the Selectboard Report, and approved it for inclusion in the Town Report.

Final Budget Review: The board reviewed budget topics as discussed at last week's meeting. A separate line item will be created for HERS and LCPC entitled, Town Service Agencies. An additional \$100 will be added to the category of newspaper notices to allow for additional notices regarding dog licenses. The board discussed funding for the flood loan principle, and the Brook Road culvert. Documentation for work done has been submitted to FEMA and is in review. Funding for the tabulator was removed. Funding for library staffing was reduced, but money was added for utilities for the Depot building. Temporary labor for the Highway Department was reduced, as was funding for equipment repair. The board discussed village water rent reserve funds. If the Junk Ordinance is approved, some funding will be available for signage and postage. Town Clerk recording fees will be estimated at \$25,000. The Town building maintenance fund was reduced. Cost of living raises for Town employees were not approved. Full-time Town employees who qualify for Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance will be responsible for covering the increase in their premiums from last year.

Motion by Klein to take \$6,009.73 out of the assigned fund balance from the North Wolcott Road grant to offset taxes and anticipated revenue. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Motion by Klein to take \$52.75 out of the assigned fund balance from Tax Mapping to offset taxes and anticipated revenue. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Motion by Klein to take \$5,800 out of the assigned fund balance from the Town Building account to offset taxes and anticipated revenue. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Motion by Klein to accept the 2021-2022 Town budget as amended. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor.

Peck and Tallman Deeds (Brook Road): The attorney who is redoing the deeds for the easements is still working with the engineer to better detail where the work will be done.

Note Taker for Law Enforcement Committee: Tabled.

Adjourn: Motion by Klein to adjourn. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 3 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - February 3, 2021