

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
January 6, 2021**

Virtual/Phone-in meeting: 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, Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee (joined late)
Employees: Randall Szott, Dillan Cafferky, Lucien Gravel, Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Guest: Dan Noyes
Public: Pam Peck, William Tallman
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Martin asked that Platform for Meetings be added to New Business.

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of December 30, 2020: Motion by Martin to approve the Minutes of the December 30 Special Meeting as written. Seconded by Klein. Voting: 3 in favor, Gravel recused herself, Lee not present for the vote. Motion carried.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: None.

Highway Department:

Peck and Tallman Deeds (Brook Rd): The Town is seeking an easement to certain portions of land owned by Peck and Tallman on Brook Road in order to replace a culvert. The Town's attorney drafted deeds which he sent directly to the landowners. The landowners expressed concern regarding the language in the deeds. The Town acknowledged the deeds were written incorrectly, and apologized to the landowners. The attorney will be requested to rewrite the deeds and submit them to the Selectboard for review. Once reviewed, the deeds, along with maps, will be sent to the landowners for signatures.

New Business:

Dan Noyes and Kate Donnally: Representative Noyes noted the Vermont legislative session opened today. Noyes has been reappointed to the Human Services Commission. He outlined for the board proposed legislation, and other highlights for this session. Donnally, who was unable to attend, has been appointed to the Judiciary Committee. Noyes addressed questions from the board.

Cannabis Retail Opt-in Vote Discussion: Szott reviewed for the board the ability of Towns to opt-in to allow cannabis dispensaries once retail sales become legal. Szott stated the board may wish to consider adding an Article to the Warning this year to allow voters to decide. Rep. Noyes had stated the Cannabis Control Board starts meeting this month. The details of how this would roll out in 2022 are, at this point, undetermined. The Selectboard would like to get an idea of how Wolcott residents would feel about this. Martin will participate in a Heady Vermont webinar tomorrow, and report back to the board.

Wolcott Store Liquor License: The annual liquor license for the Wolcott Store is up for renewal. It was noted the store has had no offenses in the past year. Motion by Lee to approve the liquor license for the Wolcott Store. Seconded by Martin. Voting: All in favor.

For the Record Comment: Klein stated he wished to make a statement for the record. Klein said the Town Clerk/Treasurer was quoted in the *Hardwick Gazette* as saying, "You've brought on recently a new employee for \$40,000 and now you're trying to nickel-and-dime the employees to pay for it." Klein stated he wished to clarify that the Town Administrator was hired at a rate of \$25 an hour for two days a week, or \$20,800 annually. That is what was approved by voters at last Town Meeting.

Town Warning Articles Discussion: Martin noted that the deadline is approaching for preparation of the Warning. The Junk Ordinance will be included. Following discussion, the delinquent tax accounts will be included in the Town Report as last year. It was noted that candidates for office will need to sign a consent of candidates form by January 25 in order to be included on the ballot. The consent form will be posted on the Town website.

Platform for Meetings: Martin suggested use of the Zoom platform for Selectboard and other Town meetings rather than Google Meets. Martin finds Zoom to be easier, and it would allow meetings to be recorded. Attendees would have the option of joining via computer or their telephone. The annual cost may be \$150. Motion by Martin to purchase the Zoom software platform for Selectboard and other meetings for the Town. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Lamoille County Conservation District Appropriation Request: The request had been made at the last meeting, but it was tabled since there was no quorum for the vote. Motion by Klein to include the request for \$500 appropriation as a separate article on the Warning for Town Meeting. Seconded by Lee. Voting: 4 in favor. Martin recused herself. Motion carried.

Selectboard Report: Klein will take charge of writing the Selectboard's report to be included in the Town Report.

Final Budget Review: The board discussed the proposed budget with input from Belinda. The proposed budget will need to be finalized at the January 20 meeting.

Maintenance job: Szott and Klein had talked with the candidate who had applied for the part-time, ad hoc position. The board will discuss the matter further in executive session.

Approve Minutes of December 2, 2020: Motion by Martin to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2020 as written. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Note Taker for Law Enforcement Committee: The Town has been requested to share with Johnson and Hyde Park the cost of a scribe for the volunteer Law Enforcement study group. It was suggested by Duncan Hastings, a representative of the group, that the salary be \$20 per hour, for three hours per meeting. The group meets two times each month. The question is whether the Town would be willing to contribute \$40 month towards the scribe. Some on the board feel the proposed salary is steep. Jim Olsen, Wolcott's representative in the group, was asked at the last meeting to seek out more information. Szott will reach out to Olsen.

Executive Session: Motion by Lee to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. Szott was invited to participate. The board entered executive session at 7:15 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 8:09 p.m. Motion by Lee to hire Chan Judd, Jr. as temporary maintenance worker at \$15 per hour, as needed. Seconded by Martin. Voting: All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Martin to adjourn. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Klein

Next regularly scheduled meeting - January 20, 2021