

# Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 6, 2022

Wolcott Town Office/Zoom/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: Linda Martin, Kurt Klein, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Billings, Richard Lee  
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein  
Public: Charlene Sroka, Tim Yarrow, Kee Gillan, Steve Princ, Lucien Gravel, Paul McGrath  
Legislators: Sen. Rich Westman, Rep. Dan Noyes

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

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Klein asked that Sand Bids be added to Selectboard review/action. No objection.

**Approve Minutes of June 15, 2022:** Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of June 15. Seconded by Klein. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community/Correspondence:** Martin has corresponded with Jackie Casino of VTTrans regarding a Railtrail grant. The nature of the grant comes under the purview of the Wolcott Planning Commission, and has been forwarded to them.

Paul McGrath, Gulf Road, provided the board with photos depicting heavy trucks using the one-lane bridge on Gulf Road. McGrath stated that the weight limit on Town roads is 12 tons, but that the Gulf Road posted limit is 6 tons because of the 55-year-old bridge. McGrath understands that the Town has issued local trucking companies overweight permits, with the exclusion of Gulf Road. McGrath was informed by the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office that they do not handle overweight issues. That would be a matter for the Department of Transportation.

**Legislators:** Sen. Westman was introduced as Wolcott's State Senator now that Wolcott is back in the Lamoille District. Rep. Dan Noyes represents Wolcott in the House. Both wished to address the Selectboard and to inquire as to whether the board has any concerns they would like to express. Martin stated a priority for the board is securing grant money for repaving the heavily travelled North Wolcott Road. Sen. Westman, who had served on the Transportation Committee and is now Chair of Appropriations, stated he will help support grant applications, and will "go to bat" for Wolcott. The board also expressed the need for work to be done on the intersection of VT Rte 15 and North Wolcott Road, which presents many dangers. Both Sen. Westman and Rep. Noyes informed the board that they can help with finding the right contact person within the State for particular issues. Martin brought up the \$200,000 flood resiliency grant the Town received to preserve infrastructure along North Wolcott Road by the ballfield. A Vermont Geological Society (VGS) recreation grant has been applied for. Sen. Westman can write letters of recommendation. Both legislators encouraged the board to contact them if needed. They can be available to attend meetings.

**Kee Gillen – Energy discussion:** The board discussed with Gillen, who serves as the Town’s Energy Coordinator, ways that Town buildings can be more energy efficient. Gillen suggested an evaluation be conducted, and a plan formulated. He will make a list of Town buildings and indicate the type of heat and hot water each uses. Initial focus will be on the heating system in the Library. Solar options and LED street lamps were also brought up.

**Ballet Wolcott:** Klein led the discussion on this topic since Martin is on the board of Ballet Wolcott. To avoid any scheduling conflicts, the Town Clerk is to let the cleaning person know if there is anything scheduled at Town Hall on Wednesday mornings. Per the agreement that ended in June, the Ballet has been paying \$350 each month. The Ballet needs to pay the daily rate for the two days they met in July. They will not return for classes until sometime in August. Yarrow thanked the board for allowing the Ballet to use Town Hall. He noted the non-profit has reorganized, but the impact of Covid has left them financially hurting. The Ballet is seeking a short-term monthly downward adjustment on the rental fee starting in September. Sroka and Yarrow addressed improvements they would like to make to the space, to include installation of a lockbox, cubby lockers in the entryway for the dancers, and painting the interior a lighter color. The board will review the Town Hall budget and expenses before making a decision on the rental rate. Additional thought will be given to the type of cubby lockers, and interior painting. Installation of a lockbox should be no problem.

**Project Manager Report:** Klein reported the date for demolition of the structure on the Town’s property on East Hill Road was rescheduled. The new Volvo loader was delivered to the Town Garage. CAI has started the online mapping process. An agreement was entered into for roadside mowing for \$7,000. Mowing will start in late July. Work continues on improving the hybrid meeting system so that it can be used by all Town committees. The Town will advertise for the open handyman position. In the meantime, volunteers are needed to take trash from the Town buildings up to the Transfer Station. As part of the board looking to the future, Klein suggested board members give thought to: the contracting of law enforcement services with the Sheriff’s Office; Assessor/Lister services; Zoning Administrator; paving of North Wolcott Road; Town Administrator position; moving the Town Garage out of the flood zone; creating a Charter; handyman position; plowing; and Transfer Station staffing.

#### **Selectboard review/action**

**Quotes:** Klein reported that winter sand quotes were requested from Gravel Construction Co., Grimes, and Salvas. Grimes did not wish to bid. The Salvas bid is for \$8.50 per yard. The Gravel bid is for \$7.25 per yard for 5,000 cubic yards. The Road Foreman was told the Gravel bid would be good for three years, however, if fuel drastically increased, they would like to renegotiate the terms. Based on the better price and better location, the Road Foreman recommends the Gravel bid. Motion by Lee for the board to accept and sign the Gravel Construction Co. agreement for winter sand for the terms as quoted with the added clause that the terms are good for three years unless fuel costs drastically increase. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All in favor.

The Town received a quote for a 20-ton trailer for \$28,985. Following discussion, the board determined to move forward with the 10-ton trailer as previously agreed to.

The board discussed two quotes from Nathan Dawley of Green Mountain Interiors. The first is for power washing, prepping, and painting the Town Garage for \$7,200. Materials would be included. The second quote is for power washing, prepping, and painting Town Hall for \$2,800. Work could start this month. ARPA funds can be used. Motion by Lee for the Town to hire Green Mountain Interiors to do the work as quoted. Seconded by Billings. Voting: all in favor.

**Paving Grant:** The paving grant of \$185,804 would require matching funds that would use up most of the funds now available. The Town will use the funds currently available to work on leveling North Wolcott Road, and seek a grant next year.

### **Project Updates**

**Brook Road project:** Work on the Brook Road should be completed before November 1.

**Gulf Road bridge:** Some time ago, the former Road Foreman had posted a sign with a weight limit of 6 tons on the Gulf Road in an attempt to control traffic. The weight limit according to the State is 24,000 pounds on a Class 3 road or bridge. The Town does not have an ordinance limiting maximum weight on Gulf Road. The Gulf Road bridge was last inspected in 2021 and received a rating of "Good." The Town has issued 53 overweight permits, which ensures the vehicle owners have the necessary insurance. The permits exclude Gulf Road. Martin reported on her communication with DMV Enforcement, and the option for training available from the Sheriff's Office. There was a discussion regarding safety and commerce, and what alternatives may exist. The board will consider various options and determine how to go forward at the July 20 Selectboard meeting.

**Local Emergency Operation Management Plan – Adoption:** Towns are required to update their emergency plans annually. The updated plan was reviewed with Steve Princ, Wolcott's Emergency Manager. Motion by Lee to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan as presented. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

**Street Naming Ordinance – Review:** Board members were provided with a draft copy of the amended Street Naming and Street Numbering Ordinance for final review. A public hearing on the amendments to the Ordinance will be held during the July 20 Selectboard meeting.

**Transfer Station:** Martin spoke with Susan Alexander of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWM) about the potential savings to the Town by sorting glass. Savings could be up to \$3,500. The process would require a sorter to manually check the glass. First, securing a helper for the attendant at the Transfer Station must be resolved. The board will consider the sorting of glass at a later time. The mess caused by the bear has been cleaned up. Signs have been posted alerting customers that garbage is not to be thrown into the open, bulk bin. It was brought to the board's attention that the cost to the Town to dispose of tires has increased. The board will consider that at the July 20 Selectboard meeting.

**Selectboard delinquent tax agreement with landowner:** The board had entered into an agreement with a landowner for payment of delinquent taxes and issuing credit at the Transfer Station. The landowner has applied for assistance with back taxes through a Vermont housing grant, which will preclude the property from going to tax sale at this point. The landowner owes approximately \$400 for trash taken to the Transfer Station. The board will follow up on that issue.

**Town Garden & Depot Park Committee:** The board received a request to create a Town Committee that would focus on the needs and maintenance of the Town Garden and Depot Park. No objection. A description of the committee's purpose and goals will be posted on the Town's website and on Front Porch Forum. The Wolcott Community Garden currently has a separate checking account with Union Bank. Union Bank requires a \$500 minimum balance. If the balance dips below that, a service fee is incurred. It was requested of the board that the Garden checking account be closed and that the funds in the account go into the General Fund as restricted funds for the garden and park. Motion by Martin that the Wolcott Community Garden checking account with Union Bank be closed and the funds in that

account go into the General Fund as restricted funds for the Town Garden and Depot Park. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

**Setting of Tax Rate:** Harris Clegg stated that the Wolcott Town School District tax rate dropped from 1.6757 to 1.5584 for Homestead. Nonresidential tax rate dropped from 1.7111 to 1.6029. The Municipal Grand List is \$160,037,000, up from last year's \$155,177,700. Highway, and Veteran's exemption, went up, but overall revenues offset expenses. The total Town tax rate went down to 0.7678 from last year's 0.7703. Motion by Martin to approve the tax rate for 2022-23 total Homestead tax rate at 2.3262 and total Nonresidential tax rate at 2.3707. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Martin to adjourn. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – July 20, 2022*