

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
August 3, 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: Dolan Patrick, Paul McGrath

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Billings asked that the speed limit on Gulf Road be discussed. No objection.

Approve Minutes of July 20, 2022: Motion by Lee to approve the Minutes of July 20. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Martin acknowledged receipt of a letter from the group representing Hyde Park, Johnson, and Vergennes that is discussing the municipal assessor issue. The group plans to meet with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC). The board agreed to reach out to the group as more information is being gathered.

The Wolcott Selectboard is invited to join boards from Hyde Park and Johnson for a meeting at the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office on August 25 at 5:30 p.m.

The State of Vermont sent a letter to verify that the Wolcott resident who applied for financial assistance with back property taxes was accepted by the program. The taxes have been paid in full.

Paul McGrath, Gulf Road, sent an email asking that it be included in the Comments to the Community. Martin read the email aloud. Board members addressed questions raised in the email. Martin stated that before a speed limit can be lowered from what is set by State statute, the Town would have to hire someone to conduct a road study, and the Town's speed Ordinance would have to be amended. The board would have to find out how much a study would cost, and where the funds would come from to pay for it. Discussion included speed, speed enforcement, overweight trucks, and condition of the road. The new weight limit signs for Gulf Road are backordered. The 6-ton weight limits signs will be removed in the meantime.

Wolcott Cannabis Control Commission: The Selectboard is serving as Wolcott's Local Cannabis Control Commission. The Commission received confirmation from the Cannabis Control Board that application S-000000017 for an Outdoor Cultivator Tier 1 Small Cultivator was approved by the State. The Local Commission is to review and either approve or deny the application. As part of the discussion, the Commission reviewed the Minutes of the May 25, 2022 Development Review Board (DRB) meeting where the grower's application had been approved. Motion by Lee to approve application S-000000017. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Project Manager Report

Work continues on the online mapping project. The new heater has been installed at the Town Garage. Painting of the Garage exterior will start soon. Ceiling work needs to be done in the Garage where the addition was added.

One of the plow trucks is inoperable and would require several thousand dollars in repairs to get it going. The replacement truck that had been ordered last year from Viking is still backordered with delivery not available until maybe November or December. Due to a declined sale, another new plow truck has become available to Wolcott. Two other Towns are vying to purchase it. It is similar to the truck ordered last year, but has a more powerful engine. The 7-year annual payment in the arrears would be \$39,152.83. The quote on the ordered truck is \$33,501.66, but the interest rate on that could not be fixed yet. Interest rate on the truck now available is 4.159%. It offers a 7-year extended warranty, although the Cummings engine has a 5-year warranty. The Road Foreman approves of the truck now available. A Viking representative will determine the trade-in value of the current truck. The trade-in would serve as the down payment on the new truck. Klein recommended purchasing the truck now available, since they are almost impossible to get ahold of. Motion by Lee to purchase the Viking plow truck now available with a 7-year lease for \$39,152.83 and a fixed interest rate of 4.150%. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: Billings asked if the warranty on the engine could be extended to 7 years. It cannot. Voting: 4 in favor: Lee, Carpenter, Klein, Martin; 1 opposed: Billings.

Klein suggested to the board that he prepare a job description for the part-time Town Administrator position and post it with Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). The budget for the position is based on 23 hours per week, but the position could be more flexible with the person billing only for productive time. No objection.

The Town is seeking restitution in the amount of \$203 as reimbursement for veterinary services provided for an abandoned dog picked up by the Animal Control Officer.

Members of the Selectboard, and the Librarian, continue to volunteer to take Town trash to the Transfer Station each week. Klein noted that this Sunday one of the Litter Committee members will be conducting a cleanup of the Wolcott section of the Lamoille River. The volunteer was awarded a \$500 grant to cover the cost of disposal.

Selectboard review/action

ARPA Funds: The Town has been informed that another payment of ARPA funds should be received soon. The amount should be similar to what was previously received.

Hyde Park/Wolcott Fund: Funds from the Hyde Park Wolcott Revolving Loan Fund have been received in the amount of \$1,510.82. As non-taxpayer dollars, the board can choose to allocate the money to a specific area. The board will consider how to allocate the funds.

Transfer Station: The cost to the Town to dispose of tires from the Transfer Station has gone up. The board discussed raising prices for tires in accordance to what is being charged to the Town. Clegg will provide the board with a list of what the Town is currently being charged for tire pickup. The matter will be addressed at the August 17 meeting.

Some months ago, the board had entered into an agreement with a homeowner to make payments on back taxes and for trash taken to the Transfer Station on a credit basis. The back taxes have been paid.

The offer of credit has been discontinued, but \$641 is still due to the Transfer Station. Motion by Lee for the Town to take over the debt from the Transfer Station in the amount of \$641 and pursue reimbursement. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Appointment to NEK Community Broadband: Michael Davidson resigned his position with the CUD. Bruce Wheeler, the alternate, is interested in filling the position. Motion by Lee to appoint Bruce Wheeler to represent Wolcott on the NEK Broadband CUD. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

North Wolcott Road: A request was made by a resident living along North Wolcott Road for a crosswalk so that he may more safely access his mailbox across the road. Martin is researching the issue.

Park & Ride Grant: A grant is available for a Park & Ride area, with a 20% local share. The board discussed advantages and disadvantages of establishing such an area along VT Rt 15. If members are interested, they are to let Martin know. The deadline for the grant application is September 2.

Community Event – 8-26-2022: The board reviewed the status of the plans for the barbeque and information sharing event set for Friday, August 26. The Fire Department has volunteered to again grill hamburgers and hot dogs. It is anticipated there will be corn on the cob like last year, along with cookies and popcorn. Booths will be set up for folks to ask questions and become more informed about the Town Forest and many other areas of interest. The Library will hold an open house and will provide balloon animals. There will be activities for children in Depot Park behind the Library. The Town Garden will provide free soil, containers, and herb seeds for a windowsill garden. Signs have been ordered that can be used to advertise the event each year. Motion by Lee to allocate \$250 from the Hyde Park Wolcott Revolving Loan Fund towards Town Event expenses, with the remaining \$1,260.82 allocated to the building fund. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor.

Adjourn: Motion by Martin to adjourn. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – August 17, 2022