

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
January 18, 2023**

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, Richard Lee, Kurt Billings  
Employees: Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein  
Guest: Salvador Morales, Lamoille County Planning Commission  
Public: Dolan Patrick, Monica Cross, Bradley Horstman

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

**Amendments to the Agenda:** The Town Clerk requested the Selectboard appoint an individual to represent the Town at the tax sale to be held next month. Added to Selectboard review/action without objection.

**Approve Minutes of January 4, 2023:** Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of January 4. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community/Correspondence:** Klein introduced Bradley Horstman, Simmons Road, as a new resident to Wolcott. Mr. Horstman is interested in participating in Town government in some capacity. On behalf of the board, Martin welcomed him to Wolcott.

**Schoolhouse Revitalization – Update**

Salvador Morales, Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), updated the Selectboard on recent activities on behalf of the Schoolhouse Revitalization Committee. The Committee has been working on what will be required to rehabilitate the building. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out seeking an architect to conduct a feasibility study on the condition of the building, conceptual designs, and preliminary costs. Three architectural firms replied and a site walk was conducted. One firm, SHKS of Burlington, responded and was selected as the contractor. Morales reviewed with the board a four-step proposal. The \$10,000 of approved funds will cover step one. Steps two through four would require an additional \$9,000. ARPA funds could be used. The board agreed to go forward with step one. The decision to go forward with the remaining steps can be made after step one is completed about mid-March. The same architectural firm can be used without having to go through the RFP process again. The architect with SHKS will be invited to attend the March 15 Selectboard meeting.

Morales stated that a Municipal Planning Grant is under review. That grant would be for a site utility study addressing exterior issues at the old Schoolhouse. Morales noted that receiving these grants makes us more competitive when applying for future grants covering other areas.

**Updates from the Chair**

Martin reported that she has been working on the equipment purchase spreadsheet, computing payments and appropriations in order to develop a plan for over the years. Martin was informed that the State Department of Corrections shop is closing down and will no longer be making road and 911

signs. Signs for the town-wide 911 sign project will have to be ordered elsewhere. Martin is waiting to see what vendor the State of Vermont will now use for signs. Martin is checking with abutters to determine if one is interested in purchasing the Town-owned property on East Hill Road.

### **Budget Hearing**

The fund balance has been determined, so the budget can now be finalized. The overall budget amount is \$1,708,300 which would result in an increase in the area of 3.06% to taxpayers. Klein stated that in this environment and considering inflation, such an increase seems pretty reasonable. The Transfer Station budget is tight; income is close to expenses. The Appropriations requests are the same as last year. The Highway Department budget is up 12% but the general budget is down 4%. Motion by Lee to accept the 2023-2024 Town and Highway budget in the amount of \$1,708,388. Seconded by Billings. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

The Selectboard reviewed the written Transfer Station budget. The board discussed the high cost of disposing of compost and how compost can best be managed. Motion by Martin to accept the Transfer Station budget. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

### **Project Manager Report**

Martin has reviewed the Certificate of Highway Mileage report. The report needs to be submitted to the State.

The road crew will put up signs on either side of the bridge on Gulf Road. The signs will indicate a one-lane bridge ahead and to go slow.

The mowing contract has expired. Mowing will be put out for bids.

The part-time handyman has been a huge asset to the Town. He has accomplished a great deal in just a couple of months. He is also plowing and shoveling Town properties.

### **Selectboard review/action**

**Warning:** The board discussed Article 4 as it appears in the Warning. Town voters will be asked if they wish to allow the Selectboard to negotiate the purchase of the .34 acre parcel on Rte. 15 owned by Champlain Oil Company. The Town is currently awaiting the results of a Brownfield study. LCPC is working on that with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It was noted that there are two positions open for Library Trustee. One is for a five-year term, and another is to complete a three-year term that is vacant.

**Town Meeting:** Dolan Patrick offered to livestream and record the Town Meeting. Following discussion, the board is fine with the meeting being livestreamed, and recorded for later viewing. Although livestreamed, Town Meeting will not be interactive, meaning only those physically present can speak or vote. Board members will give thought to what else they would like to see during Town Meeting. Further discussion will take place at the February 1 meeting.

**Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending:** Tabled to a subsequent meeting.

**911-Discontinue Road Name:** The 911 Coordinators asked the Selectboard to discontinue the name of Deals Way for a private road off Brookview Lane. The road had served as access to land owned by Mr. Deal. The parcel has since been sold to an abutter. Motion by Martin to allow the 911 Coordinators to discontinue the road name Deals Way. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

**Tax Sale:** Clegg stated that nine Wolcott parcels are scheduled for tax sale on February 7. An individual needs to be appointed to represent the Town at the sale. Usually that person is the Treasurer. Motion by Klein to appoint Belinda Harris Clegg, Treasurer, to represent the Town at the upcoming tax sale. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Billings to adjourn. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – February 1, 2023*