

Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021

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
Public: Karen McKee, Lucien Gravel, Ruthanna Demag, Monica Cross,
Melody Shirley-Eldred
Presenters: Alec Jones, Sal Morales - Lamoille County Planning Commission
Reporter: Doug McClure, *Hardwick Gazette*

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

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of October 6, 2021: Motion by Billings to approve the Minutes of October 6.
Seconded by Lee. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: None.

PRESENTATION:

Municipal Planning Grant for Childcare Study: Alec Jones, Assistant Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), led the discussion regarding a Municipal Planning Grant. The grant will fund a study regarding the needs of childcare workers, and needed infrastructure within the County. Jones hopes to work with four towns: Wolcott, Stowe, Johnson, and Cambridge, which would take a lead role. Matching funds for the grant would be provided by the Lamoille Family Center. No funds are being sought from the Town of Wolcott. The Wolcott Planning Commission agrees to review the results of the study. Motion by Lee to adopt the Resolution for Wolcott to participate in the Municipal Planning Grant on childcare. Seconded by Klein. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

2022-2023 Budget Proposals:

Animal Control Officer (ACO): The board received a written budget request from the ACO. The ACO is seeking no wage increase, but wants the board to purchase a body camera for his use and protection while on animal control related calls. The board discussed. Motion by Lee for the Town to purchase a body camera for \$170 for the ACO. Seconded by Carpenter.
Discussion: the body cam will be ordered now. Voting: All in favor.

Athletic Association: The Athletic Association (AA) submitted a written budget request. The AA is seeking \$1,500 to purchase needed baseball equipment to replace what they have, and to cover the increased fee for the baseball league. The AA is addressing baseball needs only; the elementary school is covering other sports.

Cemetery Association: The Cemetery Association submitted to the board a written budget request of \$11,000, which is level funding. This covers the cost of mowing.

Recreation Committee: Tabled to November 3 meeting.

Selectboard review/action:

Driveway Permits: Cafferky, Road Foreman, approved two driveway permits, now before the board for discussion and approval. Motion by Lee to approve installation of a culvert on Courchaine Road. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All in favor. Motion by Lee to approve a driveway on Keeler Pond Road for construction of a new house. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All in favor. The board will sign the permits.

Union Bank - letter for ARPA funds: Clegg, as Treasurer, discussed with the board a letter from Union Bank outlining options available for investing ARPA funds in the short term. Following discussion, Clegg was advised to put \$100,000 into an interest bearing checking account, and \$152,293.56 in a nine-month CD. Clegg will start that process to be effective November 1.

Audit - update: Clegg reported that the annual audit company retained by the Town has started the audit process. A draft of their report may be available by the end of December.

FHWA & FEMA projects - update: Martin reported that the Town has signed off on the FEMA paperwork for the Brook Road culvert project. Martin also reported on the status of Federal Aid Highway projects. Gravel discussed a project involving a box culvert, which the Town will purchase on its own. Several other projects were discussed, including one which needed an extension to complete due to shortage of materials.

Appoint - Committee for School House Revitalization: Martin advised that the Wastewater Committee has been discussing the Village Center, and what ways the old School House building could be used given the available wastewater flow. The Wastewater Committee will conduct a study. They suggested a School House Revitalization (SHR) Committee be created that could review the options available once the study is completed. Those suggested for membership on the Committee include: Linda Brady, Monica Cross, Allen Carpenter, Kurt Klein, Chad Roy, Ruthann Demag. Motion by Klein to appoint the suggested individuals to the School House Revitalization Committee. Seconded by Lee. Voting: All in favor. The Planning Commission will be advised.

NEK Broadband survey: The board continued discussion of ways in which the Town might be able to provide infrastructure to assist the CUD. Martin will complete and return the survey.

Town Office Plowing: The Town will put out to bid a request for plowing, shoveling, and salting Town properties this winter. Klein will prepare the bid which will appear in the *News & Citizen*, Front Porch Forum, and the Town website.

Voluntary Order of certification: Klein noted that the Vermont Department of Labor recognized the Wolcott Selectboard Meeting Minutes in order to complete the process with the Union now representing the road crew.

Starlink Utility: Dolan Patrick has been allowing the Town Office to use his Starlink dish to see how it works. The connection quality for those participating remotely in the Selectboard meetings this month has been greatly improved. Patrick noted that Starlink is a high-speed satellite internet service developed by SpaceX. The base kit would cost approximately \$600 and a monthly subscription would cost approximately \$100 per month. Patrick noted that Starlink would better serve those who come to Town Office and the Library for a wifi connection. Use of Starlink could not be extended to Town Hall, but it could serve the Library and possibly the Town Garage in addition to Town Office. Starlink would allow multiple hybrid meetings to occur simultaneously. Town Hall would remain with Consolidated.

Klein proposed that the Town subscribe to the Starlink service for Town Office. ARPA funds may cover the cost of the base kit. Clegg will check on what is being spent for the current service and provide a spreadsheet for the board's review by the November 3 meeting. Patrick noted it could take months to receive the base kit.

IT Assistance - gift: Tabled.

Wolcott Photo Contest: Martin announced the Wolcott Photo Contest is now open. The Grand Prize photo will appear on the cover of the next Town Report. Up to nine Honorable Mention photos will appear within the Town Report, or on the Town's website. Wolcott residents can submit photos taken within the boundaries of Wolcott within the last three years. Up to three entries may be submitted for the categories: Work life; Play life; Wild life/nature. The deadline for entry is December 15, 2021. Official rules may be requested, and photos may be submitted by emailing: [**wolcottphotocontest2021@gmail.com**](mailto:wolcottphotocontest2021@gmail.com). Up to five local judges will determine the winning entries. Six photos have been received so far.

Comments: Melody Shirley-Eldred, Tjader Road, requested to address the board, stating she had not arrived early enough for Comments to the Community. Shirley-Eldred advised the board of an issue with the ditching at the bottom of her driveway. She provided a photo. The board will discuss with the road crew.

Billings suggested several items that should be changed or upgraded at the Town Garage. This included: eye wash station, larger fire extinguishers, Speedy Dry oil absorbent, pedestal bench grinder to meet OSHA standards, and a welding curtain. Billings will provide further information to the board at the November 3 meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Lee to adjourn. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

*Next regularly scheduled meeting - November 3, 2021
Special Town Meeting - November 10, 2021 - 6 pm - Elementary School
(Vote on Town Forest)*

