

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
February 2, 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
Absent: Richard Lee
Employees: Dillan Cafferky, Belinda Harris Clegg, Deb Klein
Presenters: Seth Jensen, LCPC; J.B. Hinds, Birchline Planning, LLC
Public: Dolan Patrick, Lucien Gravel, Monica Cross, Connie Brown, Michelle Gaboriau

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

Amendments to the Agenda: Klein asked that a discussion regarding FICA and Medicare reimbursements to employees be added to Selectboard review/action. No objection.

Approve Minutes of January 19, 2022: Motion by Klein to approve the Minutes of January 19. Seconded by Carpenter. Discussion: None. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: None.

Highway Department – Box Culvert Bids: Joey Wilson, the engineer for the Brook Road Box Culvert project, received 11 bids for work required. The lowest bid came from G & N Excavation, Inc. from Bethel, Vermont. The total amount is \$413,866. That does not include utilities. Once work gets underway, Gravel estimates the road will be closed for about three months. Motion by Martin to accept the low bid from G & N Excavation, Inc. for \$413,866 as recommended by the engineer and the road crew. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All 4 in favor. Michelle Gaboriau, of G & N Excavation was present.

Wastewater/IUP Application & Resolution: Seth Jensen, Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), and J.B. Hinds, with Birchline Planning, provided an update to their January 5 presentation to the board on wastewater options, and an Intended Use Plan (IUP). The purpose of the IUP is to make the State aware of the Town's interest in such a project. The application form would enable the Town to receive a loan (with no pay back) for \$125,000 to support wastewater planning. The planning funds would provide an understanding of the type of system required, and the cost. The Town is under no obligation to move forward with a project at this time. The cost of such a project is speculative at this point. It is understood there would need to be grants or other outside financial support. Motion by Klein to submit the application form advising the State of the Town's interest in such a project. Seconded by Carpenter. No further discussion. Voting: All 4 in favor. Hinds was authorized to submit the application to the State on behalf of the board prior to the February 28 deadline, and send a copy to the Selectboard. A Resolution will be prepared at a later date.

Hinds mentioned that she has been in contact with The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) regarding the old schoolhouse. PTV will pay all but \$500 for an updated architectural assessment. Further discussion will take place at the February 16 Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard review/action:

FICA & Medicare refund – discussion: The board discussed with Clegg the employees’ overpayment of FICA and Medicare, and how the issue will be resolved.

Interview – Janitor position: The board interviewed an applicant for the open janitor position.

Zoning/Scanning: The board continued their discussion on the best way to make Town documents available to the public online. The board reviewed a quote received for scanning, without indexing. The board will continue to gather information regarding options for scanning in-house or outsourcing, and the platform that would be required.

Amended Personnel Policy: Klein reviewed with the board proposed changes to the Personnel Policy. Following the labor agreement reached with the road crew, the idea is to share those benefits more broadly with the full-time employee of the Town. Following review and discussion, the board members signed the amended Personnel Policy. Clegg will sign an addendum to the Personnel Policy.

School Street Bridge Survey: As a follow-up to the December 1, 2021 Alternatives Presentation, the board reviewed the School Street Bridge replacement options. The primary decisions involved whether to maintain traffic on a temporary bridge during bridge replacement; whether to have a sidewalk area on the permanent bridge; and whether the full bridge replacement would be on- or off-alignment. During construction of a permanent bridge, the cost of a temporary bridge for traffic would be approximately \$300,000. The board determined that cost to be too high. All agreed that a better option would be to upgrade Flat Iron Road and use that as a detour for the few months of construction. The bridge is said to be a 75-year bridge. The board determined that a \$6,000 cost for a sidewalk is a good investment. The board agreed on off-alignment. On the survey form to be returned to the State, the board selected: “Alternative 2C: Full Bridge Replacement Off-Alignment with New Pony Truss and Traffic Maintained along an Off-Site Detour for the Construction Season (Recommended and Approved by Structures Management.)” A request will be made for a sidewalk, at grade. The State will work with landowners, as required, on right of way matters.

Exterior Lighting: Klein reviewed a quote for exterior motion/sensor lighting for \$1,500. Two lights would be attached to the Town Office building to provide additional lighting in the parking area. The expenditure would come from the Town Building Fund. Motion by Klein to proceed with purchase and installation of two exterior motion/sensor lights at a cost of \$1,500. Seconded by Martin. Voting: All 4 in favor.

Past due water rents: Clegg reported on the status of homeowners with overdue water payments to the Town. The board suggested that those who are delinquent be provided with information on State resources that may be available to them due to the Covid pandemic. Those who are eligible for assistance should get into the program. Otherwise, a payment plan needs to be set up with the Selectboard. If there is no contact, then the Town will pursue shut-off of services.

Establish Committees: Following discussion, Martin received board authorization to create and advertise committees to provide greater public participation in particular areas. One would be a committee to manage the Town Forest. The committee would be responsible for drafting a Charter. Another would be a separate Trails Committee for the Town Forest. She would also like to see a committee to provide citizen input on how to use some of the ARPA funds. Although the funds come

with tight guidelines, citizen input would be helpful. Board members are to help get the word out to people. Names of interested persons will be collected. The Committees will be set up at the March 16 Selectboard meeting.

Update Tax Maps: The Listers sought input from the board on whether to include the names of property owners on future tax maps. Since the frequently changing names of property owners are available online at the Vermont Parcel Viewer, as well as other sources, names will not be included on the paper maps.

Executive Session: Motion by Martin to enter executive session to discuss personnel matter. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All 4 in favor. The board entered executive session at 7:50 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 7:59 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein