

**Wolcott Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes  
December 7, 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: Belinda Harris Clegg, Dillan Cafferky, Deb Klein  
Public: Jim Holton, Steve Perkins, Robert LaChance, Dolan Patrick

---

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

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of November 16, 2022:** Motion by Billings to accept the November 16 Minutes. Seconded by Carpenter. Martin asked that the Minutes be amended on the last page which shows the rental fee for Town Hall as being \$65 when it should instead read \$60. Voting: All 4 in favor of approving the Minutes as amended.

**Comments from the Community:** None.

**Correspondence:** Martin attended a meeting at which it was announced the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail will open February 1, 2023. There will be an official opening scheduled for late spring or summer. There has been discussion of signage along the trail. The Fire Department strongly suggests mile markers be posted along the trail to assist emergency responders. Martin noted policies are still being developed.

The Selectboard received an email from Paul McGrath who inquired about signage being posted by the one-way bridge on Gulf Road. Martin suggested contacting Better Back Roads to assess the area. Also, VTrans has a traffic coordinator who can be contacted for input.

The Selectboard received two driveway permits. Both have been approved by the Road Foreman. The first permit is for 969 Cross Road, requested by Shane Brown for a second driveway. The second permit is for 103 Brook Road, requested by William Tallman. The board will need a landowner signature prior to considering the second permit. Motion by Klein to accept the permit requested for 969 Cross Road by Shane Brown. Seconded by Carpenter. Voting: All 4 in favor.

The Town Report printer has sent the schedule and specifications for approval.

The Lamoille County Courthouse budget meeting is scheduled for January 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. The proposed portion for Wolcott reflects an increase of \$1,430.

The owner of the property at 74 School Street applied for property tax assistance through the Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program.

## **Budget Hearings**

**Highway Department:** Dillan Cafferky, Road Foreman, presented a written proposed budget to the Selectboard. Expenses have increased primarily due to inflation in the areas of heating oil, tires, chloride, paving, culverts, roadside mowing, and guardrails. There is also an increase in health insurance. The board will work with the road crew on where adjustments can be made. The board noted that it is important to townspeople to keep the roads in good repair.

Dolan Patrick brought to the attention of the board roadwork that is being done on Richard Woolcutt Road by one of the utilities. It appears Comcast is working in the Town's right of way without a permit or easement. Cafferky will follow up.

The board began discussing with Cafferky what improvements can be made to Flat Iron Road in anticipation of the detour being set up when the School Street bridge is finally replaced. Cafferky suggested there could be tree cutting to increase visibility where needed, and gravel added to the road.

**Fire Department:** Jim Holton, Fire Chief, and Steve Perkins, Assistant Chief, presented to the board a written budget proposal, and updated the board on the financial status of the Department. Last year's budget was the third year of flat funding. Given the increases in several areas, the proposed budget is \$6,700 over last year's budget. It was noted there is currently a two-year wait for new fire trucks.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer:** Belinda Harris Clegg presented a written budget proposal to the board. The budget reflects some increases for postage and training, as well as for insurance.

**Project Manager Report:** Klein reported the Forest Committee is seeking a budget of between \$500 and \$1,000 to cover their projects and mailings.

Klein provided updates on several topics. The new plow truck was delivered, and the old one was traded in. The Helpsy textile bin at the Transfer Station has been quite popular. The Litter Committee is working with Helpsy on a regular pickup schedule. Work continues on setting up the hybrid meeting system in the boardroom. Microphones will soon be installed. The boardroom will be painted for the first time since 2007. Brownfield testing is being completed on the vacant lot along VT Rte 15 that is owned by Champlain Oil. Once results are received the board will consider the oil company's offer to sell the parcel to the Town. The purchase would require authorization from the voters. All Departments and committees are to submit their reports for the annual Town Report by December 19. Klein shared with the board a document listing the appropriation requests received so far. Work continues on getting tax map and lister card information online. Towns were informed that the State Covid Paid Time off Relief does not apply to municipalities. Towns may have their own policy. The handyman has been working on the ice rink setup, changing filters, painting, plowing, and Transfer Station improvements. The Litter Committee will discuss possible recycling of other items at their upcoming meeting.

## **Selectboard review/action**

**Sheriff's patrol budget – discussion:** Martin and Klein have been meeting with representatives from Johnson and Hyde Park to discuss the Lamoille County Sheriff's proposed budget for each of the three Towns. As proposed, the Sheriff's Office patrol budget reflects an eight percent increase over last year, which had been the third year of a three percent increase. Johnson is offering a counter proposal of a five percent increase for one year. Although the operating budget for the Sheriff's Office appears tight, it is noted that the three Towns are not the only sources of revenue for the Sheriff. It has been suggested

that any funds the Sheriff's Office receives for providing services to the Town of Eden be placed in a fund that would offset budget increases to the Towns of Wolcott, Johnson, and Hyde Park.

Motion by Martin to support a five percent increase over last year's patrol budget for the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office for one year. Seconded by Klein. Voting: All 4 in favor.

**ARPA funds – discussion:** At the February 1 meeting, the Selectboard will devote up to one hour for the public to make suggestions on how the Town's ARPA funds should be spent. The board has previously asked for input, but there has not been a lot of feedback. The board has the ultimate responsibility to determine how the funds are spent.

**Draft of Warning, Selectboard budget – discussion:** Building Maintenance needs to be added to the upcoming budget. There was some discussion on whether the appropriations should be voted on together, or separately. The Moderator will be invited to the March 1 meeting for a discussion on procedure. Information regarding voting for elected officials by Australian ballot will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Selectboard members are advised to be prepared to discuss the overall budget at the December 21 meeting.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Klein to adjourn. Seconded by Billings. Voting: All 4 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

*Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – December 21, 2022*