

**Wolcott Selectboard
Emergency Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2023**

Wolcott Town Office, 28 Railroad St., 3:30 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
Sen. Rich Westman, Rep. Dan Noyes, Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Dillan Cafferky, Jim Holton,
Natalie Page, Ryan Bjerke, Cole Pearson, Elliot Waring, Deb Klein

Martin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Public Comments/Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

Flood Damage – discussion

Where we are now, plans moving forward: The Selectboard held an emergency meeting July 11 to discuss issues related to flooding as a result of the July 10/11 storm. This emergency meeting was scheduled as a follow-up.

Klein reported that all Wolcott roads are now open with the exception of Flat Iron Road, which will remain closed for a while. Emergency road repairs were made to deal with problems, including culverts and ditching, in order to prevent folks from being stranded. A lot of this work is temporary, not permanent. Cafferky, the Road Foreman, was able to enlist the assistance of a couple private individuals to help the road crew. Cafferky stated they started with the worst areas and worked back from there. Klein thanked residents for their patience as the road crew continues to respond to outstanding requests for repairs.

Martin reported there is extensive personal damage to structures and residences along VT Rte. 15 and School Street. Martin and Bjerke have been going door-to-door to provide citizens with information on available assistance. A flyer was distributed with information on how to seek assistance from FEMA. There is a 30-day window, starting today, in which to file a claim.

Martin has also been assessing damage and safety issues in North Wolcott. Martin, along with legislators, the Sheriff, and others attended a local human services coordination meeting today. Martin stressed the need for folks to report damage to VT 211. It was noted that Capstone in Morrisville is providing hot meals to go Friday through Sunday. Drinking water is being donated.

The Town has a few water testing kits. Although individuals can call the State Health Department to obtain a free water kit, Martin has requested the Health Department to provide free kits to the Town for distribution. If free water testing kits are not made available, perhaps ARPA funds can be used to purchase them.

A dumpster is needed in Town for bulk items. Residents with furniture and other bulk items damaged by flood water will most likely pile items up in their yard. Klein stated the Litter & Solid Waste Committee's annual Bulk Waste Day is Saturday, July 22 at the Wolcott Transfer Station. Klein suggested that in

addition to a dumpster on School Street, that flood victims be able to start bringing bulk items to the Transfer Station at no charge. It was suggested that flood damaged bulk items taken to the transfer station be tracked. FEMA funds might be available.

Town Office is the place to come for drinking water. In addition to local donations, the labor union the road crew is a member of is delivering 30 cases of water on Saturday. Properties that were flooded have a septic problem. For some, the septic system backed up into the house. The septic systems for the Town Office and the Fire Department were filled with flood water. They were pumped yesterday.

Rep. Noyes will check with VTrans to determine what sections along VT Rte. 15 have been inspected, and if any bridges have been inspected. It was noted that the LVRT property that crosses School Street by the Town Garage needs a lot of work.

Town flood damage – insurance claim, professional cleaning: Insurance claims will be filed for damage to Town properties. The Town Hall suffered the worst, with at least five feet of water in the basement. The Fire Department pumped out the water, but sludge remains. The Town Garage flooded resulting in damage to various tools, a welder, a battery charger. The floor is covered in sludge and oil. The Fire Department flooded resulting in damage to equipment and other items. Mold is a concern. Photos have been taken, and lists of damaged items have been compiled. A cleaning company will prepare a quote for cleaning these toxic areas.

Sen. Westman suggested the Road Foreman inspect bridges for any substantial problems. If there are concerns with specific bridges, State inspections can be sought. Bridge inspections by the State normally occur on a rolling 5-year basis.

Martin stated it would be very helpful to have a checklist of what Towns need to do. Sen. Westman will contact Kendal Smith in the Governor's Office in that regard.

The Town expressed thanks to the Highway Department and the Fire Department for their services during the crisis, and for their continuing efforts.

It was suggested there be more barriers set up to block areas where people should not go during an emergency. The Sheriff noted his office ran out of orange cones. Cafferky stated the Highway Department ran out of cones, and lost a lot of them in the flood waters.

A lot of folks are interested in learning how they can help, and what services they can provide to those impacted by the flood.

Motion by Klein to authorize the Town to rent a roll off to place along School Street for the benefit of residents of School Street and VT Rte. 15 to deposit bulk items damaged by flood water. Seconded by Lee. No further discussion. Voting: All in favor.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

Next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting – July 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.