

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, July 8th, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**

**Present:** John Harvey, John Center, Dick Daley and Chet Brown

**Others Present:** Mike Moser, Micheal Skaza (fire chief), ean Barrows and Robert Bach

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Approval:** Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the agenda with the addition of Action Items: c.) Recreation area pump station. Discussion Items: b.) Fire department update. All in Favor. Motion approved.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Note the new childcare tax .44% is paid 75% by the employer and 25% by the employee. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** None

**Action Items:**

- a) **Set 2024-5 Tax Rate** - Reminder the education rate is set by the state and has increased .0126 for homestead and .1713 for non-residential. The municipal rate is calculated at .9404 cents which is an increase of .0482 cents. The total increase of education and municipal tax will result in \$60.83 annual increase on a \$100,000 homestead. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the municipal tax of \$.9404. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Response to Reappraisal Order by the State** – We received the 2024 reappraisal order from the Vermont Tax Department based on the current CLA of 78.77%. We will need to complete a compliance plan by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Our last reappraisal was 2018. Discussion on the costs. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to have John Harvey sign the reappraisal order. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Recreation Area Pump Station** – Seth priced the parts from FW Webb at a cost of \$8,329. He still needs to locate a structure. He will do the installation but may need to hire a few extra hands. We hope to install by the end of the month as we are seeing increased activity. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to purchase the pump station parts from FW Webb for \$8,329. Motion approved.

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **Town Manager Report** – Tax bills will be mailed on Friday. We received the tree grant in the amount of \$27,177 for the planting of 34 trees around town. Planting in the islands

at the jughandle were not approved because of the safety issues with maintenance. We are preparing for the auditor visit on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

- b) **Fire Department Update** – The new truck should be delivered this fall. We will sell the mini pumper. Mike Skaza reviewed the new OSHA requirements for volunteer fire departments. They are extensive and costly. He suggested reaching out to our delegation and VLCT to provide comment. The law has not been reviewed in 40 years. While the safety issues are important it's too much to implement all at once. He is looking for more volunteers, we are down to 15. He also had a list of equipment needs to include: Hose and Appliance for the new truck \$15,775; (25) SCBA Cylinders @ \$1,300 each totaling \$32,500; and (3) Thermal Imaging Cameras @ \$6,500 each totaling \$19,500. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to use ARPA funds to pay for the fire equipment needs totaling \$67,775. All In Favor. Motion approved.

**Board Member Concerns:**

John Center – when will Fairview Avenue close to thru traffic. Sean is waiting for the signs, we should close in the next 2 weeks

Dick Daley – waiting for the mowing on Durgy Hill. The mower is broken, we should have it running within the next 2 weeks.

**Adjournment:** Dick Daley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm and John Center seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette