

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, September 9th, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Mike Moser 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 as presented. All in Favor. Motion approved.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion approved. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** Mike Moser noted the crosswalk in front of Westway Mall has a buildup of silt which makes it slippery. Discussion on the State sweeping the bike lanes.

**Action Items:**

- a) **VCDP Municipal Resolution** - The Town of West Rutland is considering making an application to the State of Vermont for a VCDP Planning Grant 2024 under the Vermont Community Development Program. The proposal is to apply for up to \$60,000 in CDBG funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities: Funds will be used in conjunction with Other Resources to merge two housing organizations, Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC) /NeighborWorks of Western Vermont (NWWVT) and Shires Housing in Bennington Vermont. Expenses for Phase 2 of the merger include legal, human resources, branding and systems integration. There is no match from the Town. Motion made by John Center seconded by Dick to sign the resolution as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Listers Errors & Omissions** – We received a request for a veterans’ exemption for Michael Hughes who purchased property on Elm Street but missed the deadline for the veterans exemption. Mary Ann suggested we allow the \$40,000 exemption off his assessment. Motion made by John Center seconded by Dick to allow the veterans exemption to Michael Hughes at 73 Elm Street. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Town Clerk Election Grant** – Debra Jasmin, Town Clerk was awarded a \$5,000 grant to cover election costs. Mary Ann thanked Deb for applying for the grant. Motion made by John Center seconded by Dick to accept the town clerk election grant in the amount of \$5,000. Motion approved.

- d) **Appoint MVRTD “The Bus” Representative** – The Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD) “The Bus” is looking for municipal representatives to join their Board of Commissioners. Currently, the Board only has TWO municipal commissioners from the towns of Fair Haven and Rutland City despite there being MVRTD service in 16 Rutland Region Towns. It is important to have additional municipal representation. Chet mentioned he served on the board many years ago and would like to serve again. Motion made by John Center seconded by Dick to appoint Chet Brown as West Rutland’s representative on the MVRTD board. Motion approved.
- e) **Set Water/Sewer Rates** – Mary Ann presented the following new rates \$142 for the water base, \$128 for the water bond, \$229 for the sewer fixed. These changes represent a \$39 semi-annual increase. Discussion on how the ordinance is written in charging multi-unit properties. We are meeting with Otter Creek Engineering next week to address the \$250,000 cost of the pressure reducing valve that is needed for the Rutland Town merger. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet to approve the water and sewer rates as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **Banking Services / Certificate of Deposit** – Mary Ann is comparing interest rates at various banks. Bar Harbor has increased our checking to 3.75% and has CDAR options. Mary Ann suggested a \$1,000,000 CDAR for 26 weeks at 4.5% and \$500,000 CDAR for 52 weeks at 4.35%. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to enter the CDARS contract as presented by Mary Ann. Motion passed.
- b) **IT Services** – Our local IT vendor has closed. Mary Ann and Stan are receiving proposals from various vendors. Some are quite costly. More research is needed to replace the server with cloud services, etc. Mitch offered to help.
- c) **Food Shelf Location** – We are still looking for a new location. Mary Ann suggested we tour the store after the meeting to see the existing conditions.
- d) **MERP Grant** – The grant round has finally opened. We are applying for the maximum amount of \$500,000 for upgrades to the Town Hall building.

**Board Member Concerns:**

John Center – will participate in the Rutland Town Fire District pressure reducer meeting.

Chet – When are the pavers coming back? End of September.

Dick – went to a football game at the rec area. Great experience.

**Executive Session** – Motion by Dick seconded by Chet to enter in Executive Session for legal purposes at 6:37pm. Motion by Chet seconded by Dick to close executive session at 6:50pm. No action taken.

**Adjournment:** Dick Daley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette