

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

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Sheriff Fox, Lieutenant Cross and Robert Bach

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by John Harvey with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the amended agenda as presented: canceling (due to weather) VTrans presentation bridge rehabilitation project: WEST RUTLAND BF 020-1(25)&(26), US ROUTE 4, BRIDGES 13E&W and 14E&W and the addition under action items: 2024 General Fund Transfer. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2024. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: None

Discussion Items:

- a. **Sheriff 2025/26 Budget** - Sheriff Fox and Lieutenant Cross attended to discuss the proposed budget for the upcoming year. The proposed hourly rate for 2025-26 is \$57.70, representing a 4.5% increase. Since the contract operates on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year, our budget allocation will be \$117,437. Last year, there were 1,047 calls, and we are already at 644 calls at the six-month mark. The calls cover a range of issues, including motor vehicle incidents, domestic disturbances, and retail thefts, with many thefts involving repeat offenders. The discussion also touched on recent legislative changes. The board expressed gratitude to the sheriff and lieutenant for their dedicated service to the community.
- b. **Review Draft Audit** - The audit is still being finalized; however, it was noted that the fund balance is healthy at \$515,000. Mary Ann recommended allocating \$200,000 of the fund balance to the Paving Account, which currently stands at a deficit of \$30,000. A motion to transfer \$200,000 from the 2024 fund balance to the Paving Account was made by Chet and seconded by John Center. The motion was approved unanimously. The auditor also suggested changing the treasurer position to a stipend due to the limited scope of responsibilities, which include cash deposits, signing checks, and transferring funds. Following discussions about bookkeeping duties and the bank check scanner, it was agreed that the treasurer's position would be changed to a \$5,000/year stipend. Additionally, the bookkeeper's hourly rate will increase by \$2/hour.
- c. **Town Manager Report**

- The Town Hall sprinkler heads will require additional testing.
- The Tier 2 application for the pressure-reducing valve for Rutland Town customers has been completed.
- Engineers will not have the wastewater facility upgrade plans ready for a bond vote in March.
- The water line on South Lane may need modifications to accommodate two new houses, as the existing line is only 2 inches in diameter.
- There may be infrastructure funds available to support additional housing development.

The warrant orders were approved and signed.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet – question on where the class 4 begins on Clark Hill and the maintenance that was done on the road past Five Birches.

John Center – Now that Pleasant Street is striped the road is narrow in some places and there isn't enough room for cars to park on the side of the road. Discussion on no parking. Mary Ann will discuss with the property owner.

Adjournment: Dick Daley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48pm and John Center seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette