

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, February 12th, 2024
6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Jim Flint and Mike Moser.

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 Item: Champlin Associates mission system proposal. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 8th and January 22nd, 2024. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Daime Bruley from 233 Thrall Avenue is requesting assistance. Her insurance company has concerns on her front steps and her contractor suggested they were undermined when the Town installed the sidewalk in front of her house. Sean will conduct a site visit and report back.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Rutland Region Planning Commission Public Survey** – Steffanie Bourque was present to give an update on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Regional Plan. They are implementing a community engagement survey to ensure the plan embodies the concerns, needs, and trade-offs that the region will face over the next eight years. The first step in updating the plan is to better understand the priorities of their community members. They invite all residents to Shape the Future of Our Region by providing feedback on the issues that are important to them. Such as what qualities of today's Rutland Region do you hope to remain in 2034? What qualities do you hope will change? The survey is available through March 31, 2024, and will take approximately 20-25 minutes of your time to complete and is available on the website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegionPlan2026>.
- b) **MERP Results** – Mary Ann reminded everyone that we received free energy audits for our municipal buildings. We received reports for the Town Hall and Fire Department. The reports had a number of recommendations to save energy costs, such as window replacement at the Town Hall and installation of heat pumps. The implementation grants haven't been released yet. Mary Ann will be ready to apply for funding.
- c) **Town Manager Report** – The Planning Commission has completed the updates to the Town Plan. They had two public hearings and next month the Selectboard will hold a public hearing. A copy is available on the website. Mary Ann thanked the Jim Flint and

Sean Barrow and Planning Commission member as well as Logan Soloman from the Regional Planning Commission for their tremendous hard work and many hours of service. The document is very readable in designated sections and incorporates many of the state goals which will keep us in harmony for future grants.

Action Items:

- a) **Marble Street Parking Lot Proposal** – Fuss and Oneil are the engineers working on the Marbleway Path. They need to adjust our parking lot design to include a pedestrian component. Their proposal is \$11,900 to rework this existing design. Motion made by Chet seconded by John to accept the proposal for \$11,900 from Fuss & Oneil for the Marble Street Parking Lot. Motion approved.
- b) **Marble Village Access Application** – The access was already discussed at the DRB level and Sean Barrows has signed off on the access location which is east of Elm Street. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet to approve the Marble Village Access Application.
- c) **Certificate of Highway Mileage** – discussion on making True Blue Road a Class 4. Mary Ann will look at what we need to do to change it. Table until the next meeting.
- d) **VFFC donation request** – we received a \$500 donation request from the Vermont Farmers Food Center. We typically address organization donations through articles on the ballot, and thus no immediate action was taken. We will recommend they submit a formal request by December 1, 2024, to be considered for inclusion on the 2025 Ballot.
- e) **Rescind certification of the Grand List** – This was approved last month in error. We still have an outstanding appeal so we cannot certify the grand list. Motion made by John Center seconded by Chet. Motion approved.
- f) **Award Bid Young's Brook Dam Removal** – John Center recused himself. Mary Ann explained the four bids were received in September but they all exceeded the funding. Mary Ann has been working with the dam specialist and has solidified additional funding. The selection committee consisted of SLR engineers, project partner VNRC and the Town. They reviewed the bids, interviewed contractors, discussed qualification with references and discussed prior experience with river related work with state regulators. The committee recommends selecting Fabian's Earth Moving as the preferred contractor. The committee referenced that Fabian has more construction experience around larger river projects, a wide range of equipment to properly implement the project, larger staff availability and generally more experience in the type of work. Motion made by Dick seconded by Chet to award the Youngs Brook Dam Removal Project to Fabian's Earthmoving for \$590,775 subject to final FEMA approval. Motion approved.
- g) **Champlin's Mission System Proposal** – The proposal is to install a mission system at the Pine Hill Booster Station. The State sanitary survey letter indicated the pumps fluctuated in pressure. The mission system is the best way the Town to monitor this facility. It is reliable and can save on personnel costs and callouts. Mary Ann indicated

we have the funds in our capital improvement account. Motion made by Chet and seconded by Dick to approve the proposals from Champlain Associates for \$6,270.40 for a mission system at the Pine Hill Booster Station. Motion approved unanimously.

Board Member Concerns:

Dick Daley – There is a pot hole at the top of Durgy Hill that needs to be filled.

John Center – There is a parking problem during large events at the American Legion.

Discussion on using the Church for overflow and signage.

Executive Session: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to enter executive session at 6:55pm for legal. Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to exit executive session at 7:08pm. Motion by Chet seconded by Dick to have Gary speak with DTR Motors to settle the appeal with the following: reimburse the Town's legal costs, flood plain manager approval, anchor the storage unit and remove the storage unit when Alex departs business. Motion approved.

Adjournment: Dick Daley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm and John Center seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette