

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, June 9th, 2025
6:00 pm

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Dave Webster, Bob Bach and John Center

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Mike Moser, Seth Pietryka, Robert Clark (Otter Creek Engineering) and Pamela Conway.

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 May 12, 2025. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser thanked for cleaning up the crosswalk at Walgreen's.

Action Items:

- a) **Draft Asset Management Plan:** After several meetings with Mary Ann and Seth, Robert Clark presented the draft asset management plan to guide us over the next 10-15 years. The plan will also help with additional priority points with Clean Water Funding Grants. The plan should be revisited every 3-4 years. Robert noted the future projects as: replacement of well lines, replacement of Skyline Drive water line, replace asbestos lines, replace transmission line on Clark Hill Road and meter replacements. It was also noted we will go to bid for the fire district pressure reducing valve as soon as we receive the State permit. No action taken.
- b) **Sheriff's Contract** – The contract is similar to last year's with an increase for 2025-2026 to \$57.70 per hour which is a 4.5% increase on the hourly rate. This number is included in the budget voted on in March. Discussion on how many hours of service we received. Mary Ann calculated we received an average of 30 hours per week of service. Motion made by Bob seconded by John Center to approve the Sheriff's 2025-26 contract. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **Approve Liquor and Tobacco Licenses** – All the licenses are online and the town clerk approves them. Motion made to approve the 2025 liquor licenses Pammy & Franny's Sports Bar LLC – 1st & 3rd Class and Outside Consumption; Family Dollar Stores of Vermont LLC– 2nd Class License; Mooses Pub LLC– Caterer License. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dave to approve all the liquor as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

- d) **Draft Land Use Plan Proposed Changes** – After review with the planning commission, Mary Ann suggests the following changes. Add Enterprise area for: Westway Mall and the other side of Business Route 4 (old jughandle). Add Planned Growth Areas: Dewey /Hanson Drive- Morgan Parcel 0150472 - 1.7 acres and Kelley Parcel 0150504 – 7.7 acres, Clarendon Avenue -Tyminski Parcel 1330839 – 18.57 acres; Add Downtown Areas: High Street - School Parcel 0400060 – 2.7 acres, all properties south on High Street, all properties from Marble Street to Gilmore. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dave to approve the requested changes to the draft land use plan. Motion approved.
- e) **Consider Tier 1B Area Designation** - Municipalities may choose to opt in for Tier 1 B based on the Act 181 framework for location-based jurisdiction for Act 250. There are a number of requirements such as water supply and wastewater infrastructure, zoning bylaws, town plan, and adequate capacity to support the administration. Motion made by Dave seconded by Bob to opt in for the Tier 1B area designation. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Grand List Update** – Lisa provided an update on the changes to the Grand List. The Town saw increases due to new housing development and other factors, which would have led to a decrease in the tax rate. However, the State is now authorized to calculate the utility portion of the Grand List, and that assessed value has dropped significantly. In addition, the application of the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) further reduces the value, resulting in a 3-cent increase in the tax rate. Next year is expected to be even more challenging, as the five-year appeal settlement with VELCO will have concluded. Lisa is working with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and the Legislature to help mitigate the significant financial impacts to municipalities.
- b) **Town Manager Report:**
 - **Recreation Building** – The new pump station was installed but we are still having issues. Seth noted the sewer line (which is under the building) is an old cast iron line and very flat which is causing the flow to back up. We jetted the line and purchased different toilet paper. We also plan to camera the line and try to slip line the existing pipe.
 - **Ethics Training** - Mary Ann will send out the ethics training requirement to all employees, boards members to be completed by June 30th.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center – is there an abandoned camper on Main Street?

Adjournment: John made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm and Dave seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette