

**Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 14th, 2025
5:30 pm**

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Mike Moser and Lisa Wright.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm 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: d) Set Tax Rate and e) Review Audit Proposal. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to approve the minutes of the meetings of June 9th, 2025 and July 7th, 2025. Motion approved.

Action Items:

- a) **Access Application - Cole:** John Center recused himself. The application is from Scott Cole for a new driveway access for his new home on South Lane. Fabians is the contractor. Sean has reviewed and approved the location. Discussion on culvert size. Sean said they will be addressing the stormwater with the new water line and pavement work. Motion made by Chet seconded by Bob to approve the access application as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) **All Traffic Solutions Proposal** – The proposal is for a mobile radar speed sign. The unit has a Bluetooth connection, powered by solar and can easily be mounted on an existing pole and moved to other locations. Motion made by John Center seconded by Bob to approve the all-traffic solution proposal for a price of \$4,510.21. Motion approved unanimously.
- c) **VTrans Small Scale Bike/Ped Grant Application** – Mary Ann is submitting a grant application for \$150,000 to replace broken handicap ramps in the sidewalk. The grant has a 50-50 match requirement but it can be in-kind. Sean can pull the old slabs and prep the surface. Motion made Dave seconded by Chet to sign a letter of support for the Small Scale Bike/Ped Grant Application and commit the 50% match. Motion approved unanimously.
- d) **Set Tax Rate** – Mary Ann has a correction to the grand list calculation because of the new value of utilities. The new municipal tax rate is .9767 which equals to a three-cent increase. The overall tax rate with the education tax for homestead is .00 change. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dave to approve the proposed municipal tax rate of .9767. Motion approved unanimously.

- e) **Consider Audit Proposal** – The proposal is from Sullivan and Powers for \$25,000, last year it was \$24,000. Mary Ann suggested we go to bid next year to see if we can find a better rate. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dave to sign the audit proposal for \$25,000 for the 24/25 fiscal year. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

- a) **Town Manager Report:** Mary Ann discussed several infrastructure projects, including a tri-town loop path that is facing high price tags and potential routing changes. She will email a link to the board members to look at the interactive map. She noted that the Marbleway path project, which began in August 2023, is finally moving forward after a year and a half of environmental review. Mary also mentioned that the Youngs Brook dam removal project received approval and will have a pre-construction meeting in late July, while three other projects (parking lot, dam removal, and pressure reducing valve) are pending permits and bids.
- b) **Lister/Assessor Discussion** – Lisa was present to discuss the grand list changes with the utilities, she also suggested we look at assessing personal property similar to Rutland City, Rutland Town and Pittsford. We can also look at a one percent local sales tax, since all the online deliveries are using our roads, etc. She suggests we put together a reappraisal bid with Pittsford in order to hopefully get more bidders, but we are probably out 3 years before we can complete it. Lastly, Lisa suggested moving to an assessor format because we have one vacancy in the listers and Pat will not run again in the spring. The question will need to be placed on the ballot. As an assessor her hourly rate will be \$97.50 and she will be set up as an independent contractor. Motion made by Chet and seconded by Bob to move forward to hire Lisa as a contractor beginning July 1, 2025 at the new rate of \$97.50/hour. Motion approved unanimously.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet – Can we start working on painting crosswalks and stop bars? Also, can we hold a fall townwide yard sale the weekend after the Block Party, especially since we were rained out in the spring.

Executive Session: Motion made by Chet seconded by John Center to enter executive session at 6:15pm for real estate. Motion to exit executive session at 6:25pm by Chet seconded by John Center. No action taken.

Adjournment: John made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm and Dave seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette