

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, November 10th, 2025
5:30 pm

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Chrispin White and Olivia Bucksbaun.

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 Bob seconded by Dave to approve the agenda with the addition of Otter Creek Civil Engineering Services Proposal. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Bob seconded by John to approve the minutes of the meetings of October 14th, 2025. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser updated the group on the school redistricting process.

Discussion Items:

- a) **CEDDR Regional Marketing Initiative:** Mary Ann introduced Chrispin and Olivia to discuss the Real Rutland Marketing Initiative, highlighting its success in attracting new residents to the area. Olivia explained that the program has evolved from a weekend getaway initiative to a gift card program aimed at supporting local businesses and helping new arrivals explore the community. 37 people have relocated through the program this year, and they are working on retaining these new residents through community events and resources. Olivia also noted that the program has received state funding, which will be used to expand the gift card program and further promote the area. Mary Ann discussed the positive economic impact of their community initiatives, noting that about a third of the \$150,000 investment goes back into local businesses. She explained that their monthly CEDDR mixers and occasional meet-and-greet events are open to everyone, with the next mixer scheduled for the following day at The Hub to honor Veterans Day with the VFW. They typically request a donation of one dollar per resident to support their efforts. Mary Ann said that request is approximately \$2,200 and is within our marketing budget. We also typically support a \$1,000 membership with CEDDR though an article at town meeting.
- b) **Draft Water / Wastewater Ordinances** - The group discussed the draft review of ordinances, noting some delays. Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineer will review water and wastewater ordinance changes before a legal review. We should have a better draft in the next few months.
- c) **Opioid Settlement** – Mary Ann noted we received \$3,028 at part of the State opioid settlement.
- d) **Town Manager Report** – Mary Ann discussed the potential implementation of a 1% local options tax, similar to what Rutland Town and City collect. She explained that the tax, which could be applied to various purchases like coffee, would help generate

additional revenue to offset property tax increases, with the state managing the program and returning a portion of collected funds to towns. Mary Ann suggested that public education about the tax's benefits could lead to its approval on the ballot, as she believes it's a valuable alternative to relying solely on property taxes for funding. Discussion on the elimination of the listers due to lack of candidates

Action Items:

- a. **Award RFQ for Engineering Services** – Discussion on the wastewater upgrade project. Motion made by Dave seconded by Bob to approve Champlin Associates for the wastewater upgrade controls. Motion approved unanimously.
- b. **Otter Creek Civil Engineering Service Proposal** – Motion made by Dave seconded by Chet to approve the Otter Creek proposal for the pressure reducing valve construction documents and engineer service for a total of \$29,500. Motion approved unanimously.
- c. **Award Pressure Reducing Bid** – We had six bids ranging from \$187,250 to \$365,875. Motion by Bob seconded by Dave to awarded the pressure-reducing valve contract to Millbrook Farms for \$187,250. Motion approved unanimously.
- d. **Review Skyline Water Line Proposal** – Chet made the motion to approve MSK Engineering's proposal for \$29,125 to study the Skyline waterline replacement and stormwater improvements project. Motion approved unanimously.
- e. **Appoint Regional Emergency Management Committee** – Motion made by Chet seconded by Bob to appoint Michael Skaza and Mary Ann Goulette to the REMC. Motion approved.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Dave seconded by Chet to enter executive session at 6:15pm for personnel. Motion made by Dave seconded by Chet to exit executive session at 6:24pm. Mary Ann will post an ad for the water/wastewater position.

Board Member Concerns:

John – water pressure is low on Pleasant Heights. Bob – what still needs to be done on the parking lot. Mary Ann said they are waiting for the hardware for lampposts. Water leak on Pleasant Street was the homeowner's responsibility. Chet – cars for sale at Rigg's lot, do they need a permit? Dave – land for sale near the recreation area.

Adjournment: Chet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27pm and Dave seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette