

**Minutes**  
**West Rutland Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, January 12th, 2026**  
**5:30 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Mary Ann Goulette, Sean Barrows, Sheriff Fox, Chief Skaza, Assistant Chief Lacz, Sean Barrows, Lisa Wright and Mike Moser. Brian Pine via zoom.

**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 Dave seconded by John Center to approve the agenda as written. All in Favor. Motion approved.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion made by Bob seconded by Dave to approve the minutes of the meetings of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Motion approved.

**Public Concerns:** Mike Moser thanked the road crew for the efforts in what has been a very difficult winter thus far.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

- a) **Police Budget, Workload and Staffing Update** - The sheriff reported a steady increase in call volume and arrests, with DUIs reaching a three-year high. The department is nearly fully staffed and able to maintain consistent coverage. This year's budget is a 5% increase – the hourly rate from \$57.70 to \$60.58. The group also discussed parking and loitering issues in certain areas, particularly near the park and ride lot on Thrall. They considered implementing no-trespassing signs or restrictions on overnight parking, but decided to patrol the areas more frequently instead.
- b) **Listers Budget and Reappraisal RFP** - Lisa talked about the challenges of finding new listers and the possibility of abolishing the Board of Listers in favor of a contract assessor. Lisa suggested keeping the board of listers which helps with local control, we have advertised both open positions. Lisa explained the current state of the reappraisal process, noting that the COD has fallen below 20, which mandates a reappraisal. The group discussed potential contractors for the reappraisal and the software options available. Chet made a motion seconded by John Center to issue the RFP process, with a due date in late February and an award date in April. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about removing informal hearings for the reappraisal process. Motion approved.
- c) **Fire Department Budget** – Chief Skaza presented the budget overview, highlighting increases in various areas such as stipends, personal protective equipment, and truck maintenance. The overall fire budget increase is 5.6%. He noted that membership numbers have remained steady at 15 members, with three new recruits soon to be

certified. The department has seen an increase in medical responses due to strained EMS capabilities. Mike discussed recent equipment purchases, including thermal imaging cameras and a new local radio system. The department is planning for future maintenance needs, including assessing the fire station's roof and interior painting.

- d) **Housing Redevelopment Proposal/Feasibility Discussion** - The Selectboard discussed a proposal with Brian Pine, a consultant with White & Burke, experienced in housing development, to assess the potential for redeveloping several properties in West Rutland, including the old Girardi's parcel and surrounding areas. Brian explained the process of creating a pro forma budget to fund and plan the project, highlighting the use of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) to cover costs. Mary Ann emphasized the importance of having town input in the development process and the need for guidance on how to proceed, as the town lacks expertise in this area. The discussion also touched on the possibility of expanding the project to include more parcels and exploring other development areas in the future with potential mixed-use development project in West Rutland, focusing on first-floor commercial space with upper-floor housing. They agreed that market analysis would be crucial to determine demand for both commercial and residential spaces. Mary Ann suggested exploring existing vacant commercial spaces on Marble Street as a potential alternative to new development. Brian emphasized the importance of conducting a feasibility assessment before investing in design work. Motion made by Dave seconded by Chet to approve the hiring of White & Burke with a cap of \$10,000. Motion approved unanimously.
- e) **Highway Budget Review** - The town discussed several key topics including equipment needs, budget allocations, and upcoming projects. They reviewed the condition of various vehicles and equipment, including trucks and an excavator, and discussed potential replacements or repairs. The town also addressed maintenance needs for buildings and roads, including guardrail repairs and road resurfacing projects.
- f) **Administrative Budget Review** - Budget discussions covered salary increases, insurance costs, and various departmental expenses. The town plans to apply for grants for safety improvements and discussed celebrating the town's 250th anniversary. They also considered switching to a cloud-based phone system and purchasing the copier. Motion made by Chet seconded by Bob to approve the Town Manager budget proposal. Motion approved unanimously.
- g) **Precision Industrial Proposal** - John made the motion seconded by Dave to approve the proposal to camera the sewer line at the recreation area. Motion approved.
- h) **Dilapidated / Dangerous Building Ordinance** – The planning commission did the research and proposed this ordinance. The zoning and/or the health inspector will inspect properties and issue violations. Motion to adopt the ordinance as submitted by Chet seconded by Bob. Motion approved unanimously.

**Board Member Concerns:** Dave – Mary Ann should call Mike Tyminski on his land for sale.

The warrants were approved and signed. Mary Ann suggested the next meeting to finalize the warning on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Adjournment:** John Center made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm and Bob seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Goulette