

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 13th, 2026
5:30 pm

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

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Michael Skaza, Norm Cohen, Bob Harnish, Dave Wolk and Mike Miller (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 John seconded by Bob to approve the agenda as presented. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by John seconded by Dave to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 6th, 2026 and June 15th, 2026. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: None

Discussion Items:

- a) **Dave Wolk introduction as State Senator Candidate** – Dave Wolk introduced himself and asked for feedback from the Selectboard on legislative issues.
- b) **Declaration of Inclusion Implementation** – Bob Harnish and Norm Cohen gave insight on some next steps the Town could take for implementation. Ideas such as communication to the residents on why we adopted the declaration, public notices and welcoming new residents are a few examples of how to give a sense of belonging in a community.
- c) **Town Manager Report** – We are mailing tax bills this week. Soil test is ordered for 839 Clarendon Avenue. Dave Zawistowski gave notice on his retirement, his last day is July 24, 2026.

Action Items:

- a. **Appoint Fire Warden** – Mike Skaza, the fire chief informed the Board of recent legislative changes. Effective July 1, 2026 the chief of the department within the municipality shall serve as the town forest fire warden. The new statute also allows fire chiefs to designate one or more deputy town forest fire wardens. Deputy town forest fire wardens have the authority to issue burn permits. Chief Skaza announced he appointed Tom Lacz and Steve Czachor as deputy fire wardens. Mike also announced he would be recommending some changes to the existing burn ordinance.
- b. **Sign Sheriff's Contract** – The budget was presented in January and voted on in March. The new contract at \$126,006 represents a 5% increase and begins July 1, 2026. Mary

Ann indicated she revised the contract with a not to exceed 100 hours per bi-weekly to ensure balanced coverage. Motion made by Bob seconded by Dave to sign the sheriff contract for \$126,006 for the 2026/27 fiscal year. Motion approved unanimously.

- c. **Award Reappraisal Bid** – Tyler Technology and Vision provided bids, but Tyler Technology presented a more thorough bid with in home inspections. The price per parcel is \$168 for a total cost of \$168,700. The reappraisal will be conducted in the year 2029. Motion made by John seconded by Dave to accept the reappraisal bid of Tyler Technologies for \$168,700 as presented. Motion approved.
- d. **Access Permit - Santini** - Motion made by John seconded by Dave to approve the access permit for Santini at 888 Pleasant Street with the amendment that a 10' paving strip maybe required based on water run-off. Motion approved unanimously.
- e. **Town Hall Painting Proposal** – Mary Ann requested a quote to paint the Town Hall from Eric May. Eric presented the quote in 3 parts: Back Hallway – \$12,900 paint to include sheetrock and new stair coverings; Auditorium - \$9,150 to refresh all paint; Exterior – \$17,350 scrape, paint and replace wood as needed. The total is \$39,400. The Friends of Town Hall will make a contribution. We will use the Town Hall savings account for the balance. Motion made by Bob seconded by John to approve Eric May's painting proposal to not exceed \$39,400. Motion approved unanimously.
- f. **Appoint Planning Commission Member** – Due to the Jim Flint departure, we had a vacancy. The Planning Commission recommended Kitty Furman to fill the vacancy. Motion made by John seconded by Bob. Motion carried.
- g. **Ira Mowing Agreement** – The Town of Ira needs help with roadside mowing. Sean offered to swap equipment. They can use our mower and we will use their grader, which is in much better condition than ours. Mary Ann drafted a MOU. Motion made by John seconded by Bob to sign the MOU with Ira. Motion carried.
- h. **Security Camera Proposal** – Mary Ann received two quotes for a camera system at the recreation. Mary Ann is recommending Verkada with a 5 year license at the price of \$9,269.29. We are hoping to apply for a PACIF grant or Homeland security grant. Motion made by Bob seconded by John. Motion carried.

Board Member Concerns:

John Center - Is the recreation pump station has been resolved. Seth is going to look if the force-main is blocked before we did.

Bob Bach - asked about the blighted house on Ross Street. The residents have not cleaned up the garbage etc. Discussion about condemning the building.

Dave Webster – will there be an inspection of Pratt Hall? Mary Ann is trying to find someone.

Approve Orders: Orders were approved as presented.

Adjournment: John made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm and Dave seconded.
Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette