

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

Present: Jerry Waterman, Steve Barrup, Rick Gosselin, Hannah Roberts, Cody Duckless, Bob Best, Audra Pitts, Al Felker, Steve Edgerly, Matt Wilson, Mike Baraw, Ellen Fox, Ernest Choquette.

Steve Barrup called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Rick Gosselin made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10th, 2025 meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Steve Edgerly expressed concerns about excessive noise and speed on the Lake Rd and asked if the board is going to increase contracted hours with law enforcement. The board is still exploring this.

Ellen Fox of the Mississquoi River Basin Association reported that the contract for the removal of the Sleeper Pond Dam has been awarded to GW Tatro Construction, Inc. Work is expected to start in the next two to three weeks. Ellen explained the easement request. The board appointed Mike Baraw to sign the easement contract when it is ready.

The board discussed appointment of a representative to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association. The board instructed the town clerk to place an ad in the paper to solicit an appointee.

The board discussed assignment of a late-filing fee for Homestead Declarations. Steve Barrup made a motion to set the penalty at 8%. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Hannah Roberts and Mike Baraw discussed the need to update the paid leave section of the personnel policy. The board agreed there is a need for clarification. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

The board reviewed a proposal from Chip Stevens to apply an herbicide treatment to the ball field. The board instructed the town clerk to research the details of the ball field maintenance contract the town has with Mr. Stevens to see if such a treatment should be included in the regular contracted maintenance. No action was taken.

Hannah Roberts relayed to the town a proposal from the Newport Center Fire Department to share the cost of purchasing and installing a stone dedicating the fire pond to former town clerk Denise Daigle. Jerry made a motion for the town to cover the \$375 bill from Heritage Memorial for the inscription of the stone. This motion passed on a voice vote. The stone itself has already been procured by the fire department, and they will cover the material cost and labor of installation. Hannah was instructed to pay the \$375 bill upon receipt.

Road Commissioner's Report – rock crushing and sand screening are ongoing projects. Trucks 23 and 25 are having mechanical/electrical issues. Repairs are ongoing. Hutchins was awarded the contract to pave a portion of Vance Hill Rd and have not yet done so. Kevin Blake has completed logging in the sand pit. The town received approximately \$50,000 in revenue from the sale of the stumpage. Mike asked permission to start gathering quotes for a new dump/plow truck. Current production times mean a truck ordered this fall would likely be delivered in 2028. The board encouraged him to start gathering quotes and, if possible, book a slot in the fall of 2027 to have a body installed on the chassis.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Water system is working well. Sewer system is working well; maintenance is ongoing. Sewer tanks were pumped out by Taplin's. They should not need to be pumped again this year. Solar panels are working well. There was some discussion about the slippery floor in the recycling center. No action was taken.

Rick reviewed the Sheriff's report.

Steve Barrup made a motion to approve warrants, bank statements, and journal entries. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Steve Edgerly discussed issues with loose dogs in town.

Hannah Roberts presented a request from J. Hutchins Inc. to provide written approval for All States Construction to assume the paving contract, as Hutchins has now been bought out by All State. The board instructed Hannah to provide the approval.

Hannah Roberts discussed issues with the mail system. Payments mailed out are not being received in a timely manner and as a result, bills are becoming overdue. Hannah requested permission to pay regular monthly bills to Comcast, Vermont Electric, MVP Healthcare, and Cincinnati Life Insurance online through ACH debit transfers. The board approved her request.

Jerry Waterman made a motion to enter executive session at 6:44 pm for a personnel issue. Motion was made to come out of executive session at 7:02 pm. No action was taken.

Voted to adjourn at 7:03.