

Town of Westmore VT

Municipal Building

54 Hinton Hill Road

January 12th 2026

6 pm.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Draft

Attendance in person: David Stevens (Chair), Bill Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, John Zimmer, Daniel Sicard, Carol Casey, Carol Davis, Jay Hudson, Ellie Maychryak, Norman Patenaude sr., Cindy Kriebel, Ethan Swift, Andrew Zebrowski, Pam Kennedy, Mathew Wilson (The Chronicle)

Attendance on Zoom: Donna Dzugas, Art Zweil, Leland Anderson, Ed Barber, Dave Anderson, Katie Anderson

Call to order:

David called a meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Additions to the agenda:

Isaiah motioned to add fire dept info to agenda. Miriam seconded, motion passed.

Fire dept:

Bill got word from Ray Pike this afternoon that the fire department has finished their tax forms etc and is deemed all up to date on paperwork.

Appropriation request to waiver policy

Vermont Center for Independent Living has been appropriated \$80 for years from town-last year they didn't ask. With them not asking, the policy says they must get signed petition. Elaine is asking for a waiver this one time to not have to get petition as we have always had good standing relationship with them.

Miriam motioned to waive the policy due to long term relationship. Isaiah seconded, motion passed.

Ethan Swift report on Town Forest Management plan Long Pond Road

Jared Nunery, county forester, has been working hard on the forestry management plan along side Ethan. Forester recommends forest 1 to do some harvesting of timber to promote new growth. He said the tree canopies are all getting crowded, and most trees are close to same age so there is not much diversity in age and needs regeneration which the timber harvest would complete. Most of forest 1 is healthy sugar maples with mixed species included within. Around the gravel pit there are few invasive species of weeds coming. He mentioned that a harvest would help with hiking trails and the possibilities of leased sugar woods as well. The plan draft is out for review on the town website, also front porch forum from Ethan Swift and through Westmore association.

More to come on the forestry plan soon.

Questions about voter backed petition in municipal office

Possible if no voting happens at the same time.

2025 equalisation study info only

Info only

**Request from Westmore Community Church for town functions at Fellowship Hall
adding Westmore Community Church as additional insured on town policy**

Bill made a motion to add Westmore Community Church to town insurance policy as an additional insured. Miriam seconded, motion passed.

Westmore telecom tower case proposal from Cynthia Kriebel on behalf of Westmore, intervenors and witnesses to have the town request VLCT file an amicus brief in support of their appeal. She is also requesting placing the PUC link along with an updated notice of appeal filed on November 28th 2025 on town website under notices closer to the top.

Selectboard and town will have no linking other than asking VLCT to file an amicus briefing, which VLCT would be doing for all towns not Westmore alone. Town attorney not needed to for amicus brief, and not needed for this for town of Westmore as the Town of Westmore and the Westmore Select board are NOT a party in this case. Also there would be no costs affiliated with this case to be sent to the town.

Miriam motioned to request VLCT to file a no party amicus briefing in ref to PUC case #. 24-1755pet. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Bill motioned to make Miriam point person from town selectboard on Amicus briefing. David seconded. Motion passed.

Town cottage politics

Need a usage agreement with Westmore association, and update on cottage policy.

Pam Kennedy request to spend Ben and Jerry's Grant funds

Pam asked if he could spend Ben and Jerry's Grant on needed storage, and stuff for little kids stuff for the cottage. Adjustable tables etc.

Bill made a motion to allow the Community Spaces and Activities group to spend up to \$1000.00 for town cottage items with funds coming from Ben and Jerry's Grant which was received. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Hybrid meeting while Elaine is on vacation

Carol Casey will help as needed.

Certificate of highway mileage deadline February 20th 2026

Tabled.

Updated annual town warning

Discussion was held.

Cdl drug and alcohol policy for cdl and all road crew members

Will get policy started with VLCT model **CDL Policy**.

Designated employer representative responsibilities

Elaine said a lot of work as a lot of laws and things they word to make extra hard to be in compliance.

Incident reporting

Elaine has a template, if an incident arises employee or employees involved shall fill out and let supervisor know immediately and fill out incident report as soon as possible, with pictures and written description of incident.

Select board member as backup cdl operator

Bill motion to add select board member Isaiah Casey as a cdl driver as volunteer for town and add into cdl pool. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Paving

State grant to fund \$150,000 total project quote at \$238,499.50 Miriam made a motion to sign with pending town meeting budget approval otherwise the contract is null and void. Isaiah seconded. Motion passed.

Gingue payment

John to pay Gingue but to have him come into a select board meeting soon.

Trending report on maintenance of equipment

Need breakdown bills not looking for maintenance but when there are bills like 3k and up can't we have a line item in the budget report below that says (ex. May 4,500 suspension, august 3500 king pin, november 4000 welding on body.) John said it is Dan's job. But it would be easy if we can work together. But the board is asking whether John or Dan have big repairs we can see separately for trucks and equipment. Try to replace equipment that is nickel and dining the town.

Finalize budget

Bill made a motion to accept the final budget with moving the \$15,000.00 into community appropriation. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Local citizens and visitors:

Donna Dzugas mentioned this week 248a litigation.

Correspondence: available at Town Clerks for review

Vt Dept Health notice application and paperwork due February 5th 2026
ATV correspondence from residents and tax payers

Executive Session per VSA 1 313 a1 (b) personnel
Executive session per VSA 1 313 a1 (e) civil litigation

Bill motioned to enter executive Session for VSA 1 313 a1 (b) personnel and for VSA 1 313 a1 (e) civil litigation at 8:33pm. David seconded. Motion passed.

Isaiah motioned to exit the executive Session at 9:03pm. Miriam seconded. Motion passed

David made a motion to extend Austin Sicard's probationary period 6months, to end probation by June 1st 2026 or release early due to good performance review. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

David motioned to make town clerks position a salaried position. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Bill motioned to retain SP+F attorneys with tax assessment appeal to the Superior Court regarding Dzugas- Smith vs. Town of Westmore. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Bill made a motion to allow Bill to come sign the pay roll in the afternoon of 1/13/6. Isaiah seconded. Motion passed.

Bill made a motion to put in paper to advertise for a transfer station part time per- diem worker starting wages between 18.00 and 20.00 per hour. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Minute's

Bill motioned to approve minutes from 12/29/25 with corrections, Miriam seconded, motion passed.

Review Bills, Sign select orders #1:

Bill made a motion to review, approve, and sign select orders #1. Isaiah seconded, motion passed.

Adjourn:

Isaiah motioned to adjourn at 9:27pm. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes Prepared by Isaiah Casey:

X David Stevens. _____ (Board chair)

X Peter Hyslop. _____ (vice chair)

X Bill Perkins. _____

X Miriam Simonds. _____

X Isaiah Casey. _____