

Town of Westmore VT

Municipal Building
54 Hinton Hill Road
December 15th 2025
6 pm.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance in person: David Stevens (Chair), Bill Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, Dan Sicard, Carol Davis, Ellie Machrzak, Peggy Zimmer, Meg Carter, Ray Pike, Jason Midthan, Deb Smith, Ray Rodriguez, Norman Patenaude, Kelly Casey, Wally Rodgers, John Zimmer, Carol Casey, Cindy Kreible

Attendance on Zoom:

Maree Bushey, Dianne Lehder, Donna Dzugas, Katie Anderson, Ben and Linda Kinsley, Karen Davenport, Arthur Zweil

Call to order:

David called a meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Additions to the agenda:

Bill motioned to add updated backhoe contract signatures needed, and Innovated Solutions to include winter spray bar for magnesium chloride for road brine. Miriam seconded; motion passed

Raymond Rodriguez of Orleans Snowstormers Snowmobile Club request to use town roads

Bill motioned to have David sign a document for the snowmobile club. Isaiah seconded. Motion passed.

Town clerks request to order 2 of each Selectboard minutes books, and Land Record books, and 1 Town red book for a cost of \$198.39 each or 2 for \$183.90 each. total cost \$933.99

Miriam motioned for the town clerk to purchase books up to \$933.99. Isaiah seconded. Motion passed.

Orleans County Sheriff dept new appropriation request 2026

Orleans County Sheriff updated appropriation request at \$65/hour for about 414 hours to equal \$28,359.00.

Glover Ambulance new contract amount request 2026

Glover ambulance contract amount request of \$20,270 is about a 3% increase.

Casella notice of increase to be effective in January 2026 invoice

Info only from Casella- no amount sent yet of what actual increase is.

ATV use on Westmore roads

Isaiah Casey brought to the Select Board the info and question of how do we get a vote to open most roads in Westmore to ATV/UTVs.. David told Isaiah it had to be voted by the Select Board to put on Town Warning for town vote. So Isaiah did some digging. Isaiah spoke with Adam Hussain who said that since towns are open less ATV calls needing EMS, and talking to several Orleans County Sheriff Officers that all reported. So when a town is not open there is no enforcement by the Sheriff or State Police, as they are not supposed to pursue a chase with a cruiser to an ATV as it can make it dangerous. But if town roads are open or trails are open, then the Sheriff, State Police and Fish and Game all have UTVs so they then can enforce laws with them. So the only way to deal with the ones we currently have lots of on town and state roads in towns that are not open, would be to open the roads. Isaiah went on to chat with Scott Jenness, president of Borderline Ridge Runners. Scott was very hesitant to say much at first as there was a group that basically ran him out of town he stated. But he would be willing to come out to meet and answer questions if things will be civil. Isaiah asked Scott if he had a list of towns that are open, he gave him a list, the following all roads are open most are year round few of them are from May 15th to Oct 1st. Albany, Barton town, Brownington, Charleston, Coventry, Derby Line, Glover, Holland, Irasburg, Jay, Morgan, Newport City, Newport Town, Orleans, Troy and Westfield. With Barton village only marked roads. Isaiah recommended opening all town roads in Westmore to Scott with the exception of Long Pond Road and Old Cottage Lane, as really no need to be on those roads, and there are some narrow spots that could be dangerous if meeting cars. He thought that could be a start to look at with townspeople. Newport Center and some other towns when first opened did have stickers that were purchased to use town roads. Most have gone away from it but not all. Newport City when it opened did a trial on only certain roads and pieces of roads- it was a nightmare until riders figured out where it was open and not. Learning curves. After the first year all roads people realized the only places people were speeding, being loud were where they weren't supposed to because they were trying to get to legal trails roads before they got caught. If town roads were opened we could apply for a permit to connect town roads by opening Rte 5a from North Beach to the store. To allow riders to patronize the local community as well as with the use of snowmobile trail to go from North Beach to the Gap Pub and Grill, or open Rte 5A there too.

Cindy Krieble said she's worried if we allowed them the town would be over run with people and ATVs also concerned about what the summer people think.

Some one said this is a sneak way to try to put this on agenda before Christmas.

Diane Lehder said she's concerned about safety and thinks there should be a meeting in July after the fourth.

Kelly Casey brought up a point that maybe we can find a way by bring \$ in town.

Linda Kingsley said we need to talk to property owners in other towns very concerned about noise.

Karen Davenport on the Long Pond Road, agrees with Cynthia and Linda noise and safety concerns.

Ellie Maychryak says ATVs are not for use on paved roads or dirt.

Kelly Casey mentioned that she works at NCH and is rare to see anyone from ATV incidents- she could only remember one and was not on a trail or road.

Jason lives on the corner of 5A and 16. He has seen substantial increase on ATV/UTV coming through. What he has seen is they are going slow, respectful and not littering or doing burnouts. The ATV/UTV crowd has been very respectful; the motorcycle and truck crowd are burnout littering ones. If we get some skin in the game we will be more in control of our area. No skin, no control.

Art said I'm concerned about noise. I can handle boats, can handle laughter, and don't want the noise. He thinks the summer people pay a lot of money for roads, and doesn't think town meetings are correct for it.

Donna Dzugas already has problems on private roads. You cater to too many people. Katie Anderson thinks all should be able to vote on it. The store is too congested now, they don't have room for them. She said game wardens can't fine people for parking, boat access and swimming so they won't help on your ATV case.

Wally Rodgers moved here for quiet; parking at Willoughby is so hard, Westmore has just changed so much. Wally said ATVs are going up and down Lakeview roads a lot and says they shouldn't be on roads.

Deb Smith says the most important things are the mountains and views. If you want a different view go to Jersey shore.

Kelly Casey also made the point out that if you update your vehicles with street tires or mud tires, you can do the same thing with ATVs and UTVs. A lot of riders that are doing more on road, not trail riding, put street tires and suspension on their machines.

Peggy Zimmer asked about state roads. It was said we would have to open the town and ask the state for a permit.

Ray Pike said it sounds like a jet ski issue.

Katie Anderson says we should say no for now.

Item tabled.

Section 125 plan approval needed

Isaiah made a motion to accept section 125 plans with conditions of needing to see proof of current medical insurance. Bill seconded, motion passed.

Addendum to Personnel Policy about Vacation Rollover- approval needed

Item tabled to change wording

Annual Town Meeting Warnings Fire Dept., and 1% option tax question

David made a motion to add the 1% meals and beverage option tax on town warning. Miriam seconded, motion passed.

Help wanted: Town Health Officer, training Webinar Jan 7th, Feb 3rd

Elaine to look into what other town's stipends are for health officers.

Lister RA- Preliminary Reappraisal Compliance Plan

We are up to code! Info only

Lister position to be available?

John is up for reelection and hasn't said he is or not running, but it would be a perfect opportunity for some one to get in and start the classes to become certified to be a reappraiser that the town and or state could help pay for training said Maree Bushey. Then assessing would be done in house, not a huge town cost for reassessment.

Resident request for Phyllis Parrot/ Eagle Eye Farm for road safety signs - sharp curve, steep hill

Tabled Dan looking at grants for this and other areas can't put new signs in this time of year anyway.

Curb Cut Policy regarding gravel

Remove the free load of gravel from curb cut policy.

Cold Planing and Paving bids

David made a motion to approve Pike Industries Inc bid for \$90/ton for paving. If we pave less due to funds gen pavement will not exceed \$91.75/ton, and accept cold planning and shoulders. Miriam seconded motion passed. We are to look closer as we have a better idea where the budget and grants lie.. Dan to keep tabs with Norman.

Medical Insurance Coverage Update

Dan opted out of insurance soon.

ADDITION 1 New backhoe revised purchase agreement signature needed

Isaiah motioned to sign the new backhoe updated agreement. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

ADDITION 2 Innovative solutions updated contract including winter spray bar

Isaiah motioned to sign innovative solutions and an updated contract including spray bar. Miriam seconded. Motion passed

CD renewal approval needed

Miriam motioned to approve rolling over the 2 CDs that are daylighting. For another 12 or 13 months. Bill seconded, motion passed.

MERP update

Original scope of work complete. There is still about \$79,000 to spend by the end of 2026. Looking at heat pumps for town clerks offices, and offices at town garage, new exterior lighting at town garage and in fire bays, new garage door seals, etc. Bill motioned to go to MERP to see what they will cover and change scope of work for grant to cover. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Local citizens and visitors:

Donna Dzugas mentioned more clear accessible zoom meetings with cameras and doc scanner better access to recorded meetings.

Correspondence: available at town clerks for review

Kimball Johnson re: open meeting laws
NEKCV broadband 2025 annual report
NKHS free community training QPR institute

Executive Session per VSA 1 313 a1(a) contracts

Bill motioned to go into executive session VSA 1 313a1(a) at 8:04pm. Isaiah seconded
David motioned to exit the executive session at 9:00pm bill seconded.

David motioned to release the 2024 \$30,000 Appropriation dollars town held of Westmore Fire Dept and to put Westmore Town Fire DSept on Town Warning for the appropriation amount of \$44,660. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session per VSA 1 313 a1(f) communication legal services

Bill motioned to enter executive session per VSA 1 313 a1(f) at 9:05pm, David seconded.

Motion passed.

Bill motioned to exit the executive session at 9:07pm David seconded. Motion passed.

Bill motioned to have Elaine contact VLCT or another recommended lawyer for Tax Assessment appeal hearing. David seconded. Motion passed.

Executive session per VSA 1 313 a1(b) personnel

David motioned to enter executive Session per VSA 1 313 a1(b). Bill seconded. Motion passed.

David motioned to exit executive Session at 9:18pm. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

David motioned town received letter from Jeffrey Leland and board will forward to VLCT town lawyer and ask for next steps. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes

Miriam motioned to approve minutes from 12/1/25, Bill seconded, motion passed.

Review Bills, Sign select orders and payroll #25:

Bill made a motion to review, approve, and sign select orders and payroll #25. Miriam seconded, motion passed.

Adjourn:

Bill motioned to adjourn at 9:35pm. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes Prepared by Isaiah Casey:

X David Stevens. David Stevens (Board chair)

X Peter Hyslop. Peter Hyslop (vice chair)

X Bill Perkins. Bill Perkins.

X Miriam Simonds. Miriam Simonds.

X Isaiah Casey. Isaiah Casey.