

Town of Westmore
Municipal Hall
54 Hinton Hill Rd
Westmore, VT
October 21, 2025

Special Select Board Budget Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Bill Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, John Zimmer, Dan Sicard, Maree Bushey, Donna Dzugas (remote)

CALL TO ORDER 9:20am

- Additions to the Agenda:
- Equipment discussion - Dan said that both the loader and backhoe are long-in-the tooth. He proposed buying a combination backhoe/loader from Deere for added versatility. The current excavator could be used as a trade-in. The team decided to look into pursuing this and investigating a 3-year loan and 50% downpayment (after trade-in) to finance the equipment.
- Second 2026 working budget session.
 - John updated that the CPI-W COLA increase for August was 2.8% as there is some doubt as to the timing for the September CPI-W announcement. Ensuing discussion was around exceptions to this rate (Asst. Clerk and Highway Team) and include a \$1,500 stipend for the SelectBoard member who assumes documenting the meeting minutes. Elaine agreed to a freeze on her rate for 2026.
 - John talked about classifying the Paving and Materials budgets with the Highway funds in 2026. This is consistent with most other towns and allows more transparency to the total road-related expenditure. The amounts will be shown separately and included in one total amount for voter approval.
 - Discussed the 10-year capital needs plan. John explained the goal of ensuring a consistent year-over-year ask for the taxes to support this plan. The team considered the plan reasonable and agreed the process would be an iterative one going forward.
 - The group discussed the level of funding needed next year for the milfoil and greeters' program. John will reach out to the State to ask about expected grant awards for 2026. Westmore will also need to touch base with the Westmore Association.
 - The team reviewed revenue projections. Updates were made assuming new revenue streams from event donations, increased catering fees, zero-sort trash revenues, and revised zoning fees. The team felt it was worthwhile to ask (again) for the food and beverage 1% option tax at town meeting. John and Bill will meet with Andy Berley to discuss zoning fees.
- Next Budget meeting will be Tuesday, October 28th at 10AM
- Meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 12:22PM

David Stevens

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Bill Perkins

Peter Hyslop

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Isaiah Casey

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Miriam Simonds

MINUTES PREPARED BY JOHN ZIMMER