

Selectboard Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2026, 6:00 PM

In attendance: David Stevens, William Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, John Zimmer, Ellie Majchrzak, Katie Anderson, Art Zweil, Carol Davis, Bob Kennedy, Peggy Zimmer

Via Zoom: Christopher Roy, Donna Dzugas-Smith, Michael Miller, Maree Bushey

David called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Notice: Tax Bills / Absentee Ballots / Nov. 3 Election

The Board noted that tax bills have been sent and are due at the Town Office by 4:00 PM on October 20th; postmarks are not accepted. Absentee ballots are expected to be mailed by the State by approximately October 1st. Residents were reminded of the November 3rd election regarding the OCSU consolidation to one school district.

Bill motioned and Isaih seconded to add Road Signs and VLCT PACIF & VERB Voting Notice to the agenda. Motion passed.

TREASURER

Update on Larry Smith re Crosswalks at North Beach

The Treasurer reported that he contacted Larry Smith regarding the crosswalk request at North Beach and explained that the Board wished to consider the broader picture of traffic flow and pedestrian safety before installing crosswalks. Mr. Smith was receptive, agreed to withdraw the item from his report, and asked to be kept updated on the Board's progress.

Request approval for conducting transfers between Municipay and General Fund bank account

The Treasurer explained that electronic tax payments accumulate in a separate Municipay account and need to be transferred to the General Fund, which is the sole account from which checks are issued.

Bill motioned and Miriam seconded to grant authority to the Treasurer along with the Town Clerk to conduct transfers from the Municipay account to the General Fund using bank deposit documentation of each transaction. Motion passed.

Approval of the cost of additional lighting in Town Garage bays

Isaiah motioned and Bill seconded to approve the additional lighting and installation by Pierce Electric in Town Garage bays at a cost of \$10,040 to be fully reimbursed through MERP grant funds. Motion passed.

Approval for safety bay electrical cord installation for Fire Department

Miriam motioned and Bill seconded to approve a cost of \$2,580 for the furnishing and installation of two ceiling-mounted retractable cord reels in the fire safety bays, as recommended by PACIF Loss Control Larry Smith. This expense is not covered by MERP and will be funded from the highway budget. Motion passed.

Paving Long Pond-The Treasurer reported that he contacted VLCT legal counsel regarding statutory obligations related to a deficit in the paving fund following completion of the Newark Road project. VLCT indicated they must speak directly with the Select Board on this matter due to attorney-client privilege. No action was taken.

Donation Policy

The Treasurer presented a draft donation policy including a template acknowledgment letter for donors. Town Counsel reviewed the draft and identified one correction: the confidentiality provision must be amended to clarify that while donors may request anonymity, donor names are public records and must be disclosed upon request. The Treasurer will revise the policy with a list of donations received to date for Select Board review and acceptance prior to letters being issued. The Board confirmed that all donations must come before the Select Board for acceptance or denial before acknowledgment letters are sent. No formal vote was taken; the item was carried to the next meeting.

LISTERS: Errors and Omissions

Miriam motioned and Isaiah seconded to accept the Errors and Omissions as submitted by the Listers on Sept 21. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Highway Structures Grant FY27 Grant Agreement BC2450-Big Valley-signature needed

Isaiah motioned and Bill seconded to approve the Grant Agreement BC2450 for the Town Highway Structures Grant FY27, awarding \$130,500 with a 10% local match for a culvert project on Big Valley Lane. Motion passed. It was noted that engineering is required and expected to be completed in spring, with structural work to follow in the subsequent year. The grant period extends through 2028.

Kingdom Gravel & Aggregate price increase of \$1.00/ton on materials: Information Only

NVDA Regional Planner: Current Draft Map of Regional Future Land Use Map

The Board was informed that NVDA has released a draft Regional Future Land Use Map for public comment. A public hearing is scheduled in Newport the following week, with a final presentation anticipated in mid-October. Noted for informational purposes; no action taken.

PACIF Safety Grant Award \$1290 toward garage cord reels-Information Only

Register the Kubota Tractor-signature needed

Isaiah motioned and Bill seconded to have David sign the Kubota Tractor registration. Motion passed.

Milfoil Boat Greeters Update -Item tabled

Sick Time

The Town Clerk reported that based on calculated average hours worked, Darcy has met the threshold for sick time eligibility under the personnel policy (averaging 21 hours per week over the qualifying period) and has accrued approximately 16 hours of sick time. This will be reflected in payroll going forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Repair to the Municipal Office floor joists

The Board was advised that contractor Chester Perry had been engaged and indicated he planned to begin work earlier in the week but had not yet appeared on site. The Board noted it will continue to follow up.

Town nomination for Vt Community Leadership Summit October 6

Bill motioned and Miriam seconded to nominate Peggy Zimmer as the Town's representative to the Vermont Community Leadership Summit on October 6th. Motion passed. VCRD to cover registration costs.

ROAD FOREMAN

Trees behind the Town Cottage

The Board discussed the removal of dead trees behind the Town Cottage. It was noted that no permit is required to remove dead trees, but stumps must remain in place to preserve root systems for shoreline stabilization. The Board agreed to seek quotes from multiple tree service contractors.

VLCT Voting Designation (Added Item)

Isaiah motioned and Miriam seconded to authorize Bill Perkins to complete and submit the VLCT PACIF and VERB ballots. Motion passed.

Road Signs (Added Item)

The Board was informed that Vermont State Police, while executing a search warrant at a residence on an unrelated matter, recovered a Route 5A road sign belonging to the Town of Westmore. The State Police requested direction on whether the Town wished to press charges. The Board discussed the matter and agreed the potential legal costs outweighed the benefit for a single sign. The Board directed that inquiry be made as to whether the sign could simply be returned and asked that Town Counsel Jim Barlow be consulted to clarify the Town's obligations and exposure before any decision to press charges is made.

NEKWMD Meeting September 8: Miriam presented notes from the September 8, 2026, NEKWMD Board of Supervisors meeting. Key points included: August revenues exceeded expenses by \$11,835 due to the hauler surcharge increase; cardboard prices rose from \$80 to \$90 per ton; the plastics recycling market is weakening; and glass disposal costs are offsetting recent fee revenue gains. The Board was also advised that the State's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is implementing a household hazardous waste collection plan that could require NEKWMD to serve non-member municipalities — potentially increasing the population served by 40% — without corresponding funding. NEKWMD Director Chris Thompson formally objected to this arrangement in public comments on behalf of the district. Information Only.

LOCAL CITIZENS and VISITORS: Questions and Discussion

. A resident urged the Select Board to submit an independent public comment to NEKWMD on behalf of the Town of Westmore to reinforce the district's position and protect local taxpayers. The Board agreed further research was warranted before drafting a formal response and asked for information on the public comment deadline.

Correspondence

All correspondence is available at the Town Clerk's Office for review. Items noted:

- Cindy Kriebble email regarding the PUC Decision on the ITW, LLC Tower Project
- Notice of ANR Municipal Day October 30 with a theme of MAPS
- NEKCA Information on Seasonal Fuel Assistance Available

Proposed Executive Session: The Selectboard found that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

David motioned and Isaiah seconded to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(E) and (F) to discuss pending litigation to which the public body is a party and to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. Motion passed.

Bill motioned and Isaiah seconded to exit Executive Session at 7:42 PM. Motion passed.

Bill motioned and Isaiah seconded to retain Jim Barlow in the RLI Futures, LLC tax assessment appeal to PVR. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings: Selectboard Meeting September 8

David motioned and Miriam seconded to approve the minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of September 8, 2026. Motion passed.

Review Bills and Sign Select Orders & Payroll #19: Isaiah motioned and Bill seconded Motion to approve the bills and sign Select Orders and Payroll #19. Motion passed.

Isaiah motioned and Bill seconded to adjourn at 7:46 PM. Motion passed.

Minutes prepared by Hey.gov & Elaine Cashin

Attest:

David Stevens _____

William Perkins William Perkins

Miriam Simonds Miriam Simonds

Isaiah Casey Isaiah Casey

Jason Petrarca: Absent