

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

Draft

Members Present: David Babbott-Klein, Fred Messer, Brian Shupe, Larissa Ursprung

Staff Present: York Haverkamp, Town Administrator

Others Present: Emma Delphin, MRVTV, Alice Peal, Erin Vreeken

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Larissa Ursprung. The meeting was held in person at the Waitsfield Town Office and remotely via Zoom.

II. Regular Business

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).

The order of agenda items was adjusted.

2. Public Forum.

Alice Peal provided some clarifying information about the Bike/Ped and Transportation Alternatives grant programs, noting that the Minutes of October 27 should be amended for accuracy.

3. Consideration of First Class Liquor License application for Mad Moose Bar and Grill.

Erin with Mad Moose provided some information about her family's plans to open a restaurant in the former Blue Stone space. She noted that all of the staff has completed required alcohol training.

MOTION: *Mr. Messer moved to approve a First Class and pending Third Class License for Mad Moose Bar and Grill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein, and passed unanimously.*

4. Meadow Road bridge discussion.

Alice Peal had provided a summary of the bridge's condition, as well as images of potholes/cracks on both sides of the bridge decking where it meets the curb and the railing, explaining that this is causing the deterioration of the bridge. She also noted that one I-beam appears to be bowing. Ms. Peal explained that wider vehicles will come into contact with the edges, furthering the damage; placing Jersey barriers at the approaches to the bridge to keep wider vehicles off the bridge is a possible strategy; it was agreed that turning around at these points could be difficult. Mr. Haverkamp explained that VTrans would allow posting the bridge for an 8-ton weight limit, but that if enforcement of that is not possible, the bridge will need to be closed. Several strategies to aid in enforcement of the lower limit were discussed, with it being agreed to:

- Communicate information to the public through various media/platforms
- Establish an account with DMV as necessary in order to allow posting and enforcement
- Request that Sheriff Department hours be devoted to monitoring Meadow Road bridge traffic
- Contact fuel companies, trash collection companies, and others who use heavy vehicles

- Rent an electronic sign to provide notice on Route 100
- Speak with First Student/HUUSD so that they can determine if a smaller bus will meet the weight limit or if a route change is necessary
- Install cameras for the purpose of gathering data regarding high volume times and vehicle sizes
- Adjust or remove existing road weight limit signs, to avoid confusion
- Communicate with emergency responders and the Road Department

It was agreed that, due to the number of unanswered questions regarding the covered bridges and associated weight limits and work needed, to only register the Meadow Road bridge with DMV at this point.

Ms. Peal noted that the engineer who has been involved in these discussions has pointed out that if repair of the existing holes is undertaken, a higher quality concrete should be used.

It was agreed that a temporary bridge should be applied for, particularly as the 2024 flooding which closed Routes 100 and 100B as northern entrances to the area, at a point when numerous daily trips were necessary by fully loaded dump trucks, led to accelerated deterioration of the bridge.

Mr. Haverkamp indicated that there is some potential for repairs to take place which will allow for an increase to the posted weight limit, and that RFPs have been published regarding submission of proposals for this work.

MOTION: *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to revoke all previously approved overweight exemptions and permits for the Meadow Road Bridge, and to approve publication of the Public Notice regarding the new 8-ton weight limit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

5. Town Garage – consideration of proposals and acceptance of a bid.

Mr. Haverkamp noted that the Town had received 10 proposals, outlining planning and potential costs for Town Garage design work. It was agreed to review these in Executive Session.

6. Executive Session.

MOTION: *A motion to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to enter Executive Session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(A) [contracts], inviting Mr. Haverkamp to join, passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:30 pm and returned to open session at 8:27 pm.

Ms. Ursprung explained that the number of proposals to be considered had been reduced to four, and that those finalists will be interviewed and references obtained before a final decision is made.

Mr. Shupe left the meeting at this point.

6A. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 10/27/2025 were amended and approved.

7. Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL: *A motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.*

- Approve Joy Restaurant Third Class Liquor License
- Approve Bills Payable & Treasurer's Warrants
- Approve use of Flemer Field for Highlander Youth Lacrosse

8. Town Administrator's Report.

Mr. Haverkamp reported that FEMA has approved some reimbursements for work, both completed and ongoing, related to the 2024 flooding. He pointed out the PACIF information that was included in the meeting packet for Board awareness, and noted that he continues to work on the matter of the Great Eddy Bridge capacity.

9. Selectboard Roundtable.

Mr. Babbott-Klein indicated that he would summarize information regarding grant opportunities for the Board and others.

Ms. Ursprung explained that she will be out of town for an extended period and attending meetings remotely, and suggested that another Board member might attend the ongoing discussions with Warren and Moretown regarding traffic calming.

V. Other Business

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary