

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 8, 2025

Draft

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

Staff Present: York Haverkamp, Town Administrator

Others Present: Ron Graves (Fayston Selectboard), Lisa Loomis (Valley Reporter), Chuck Martel (Fayston Selectboard), MRVTV, Don Simonini, Sarah Stavraky, Madison Vasseur

Fire Department

Members Present: Daniel Beede (Assistant Chief), Tripp Johnson, Josh Noyes, Evan Theurer, Jared Young (Chief)

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

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).
No adjustments were made to the agenda.

2. Public Forum.

Don Simonini requested that adjustments to the Road Agreement be considered, allowing for coordination for springtime grading of the lower end of the Center Fayston Road. It was indicated by Board members present that this will possibly be discussed at a future point after consultation with the Road Foremen.

II. Regular Business

1. Fire Department tour and discussion.

Mr. Shupe explained that it is valuable for the Boards to hear from the Department regarding needs, capital budget, and other updates.

Mr. Young outlined that the new engine to be delivered in 2027 will replace Engine No. 5, which is 23 years old and still operating, but increasingly requiring maintenance. He explained that the new engine will also provide benefits of upgraded technology. He indicated that there are ongoing concerns regarding the deterioration of the Fire Station building, noting that repairs have been completed as possible by members of the Department. However, he explained that there are heating, plumbing, and electrical needs at the site which require professionals to complete the work. He emphasized that the building cannot be allowed to freeze, due to the water stored in the tanker. Mr. Young has obtained a quote for needed electrical panel work, but has not yet solicited bids for replacement of the heating system. These repairs are not currently included in the budget request.

It was further discussed that the building does not cover some basic firefighter needs, such as a shower, closed off areas to avoid the spread of post-fire contaminants, or an exhaust system to operate when the trucks are started in the building. Mr. Young indicated that the new cleaning

system/area is advantageous, but that a separate room would provide for better safety. The existence of an inspection report which was provided several years ago was discussed; Mr. Johnson noted that at one point a list of items to be addressed had been provided to the previous Town Administrator. Mr. Shupe pointed out that reviewing the cost effectiveness of repairs versus construction of a new station would be a useful undertaking.

Mr. Young then outlined the Department roster, spoke of the year's call volume and assistance provided to neighboring towns, and the Department's ability to get a crew together when needed. Board members explained that Waitsfield has some administrative time budgeted for the Department, and that Mike Jordan has assisted with Department budget development in the past and likely would do so again.

Mr. Johnson provided some historical capital budgeting information and future plans. It was explained that Engine No. 5 will likely be auctioned once the new engine – Engine No. 7 – is delivered in early 2027, as technology changes over the years preclude the ability to trade in a vehicle of this age.

Mr. Young indicated that the hydrant system is working well, and confirmed that the planned stand pipe at East Warren/Rolston Roads will be beneficial.

The group then toured the building and equipment.

2. Road Agreement.

It was agreed that the Road Agreement will remain in place, with 3% added to the total amount, which is also what was approved for the current year.

MOTION: *Mr. Martel moved to increase the Road Agreement budgeted amounts by 3% for the upcoming fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

3. Consent Agenda.

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

- Approve Bills Payable & Treasurer's Warrants
- Approve RRFB installation

III. Other Business

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary