

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 24, 2025

Draft

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

Staff Present: York Haverkamp, Town Administrator; JB Weir, Zoning Administrator

Others Present: Bob Cook, Peter Franzoni, Bruno Grimaldi, AnnMarie Harmon (Planning Commission), Trish Hopkins, Curt Lindberg, MRVTV, Bobbi Rood, Mac Rood, Colleen Senterfitt, James Senterfitt, Jonathan Ursprung (Planning Commission), Chessie Stevens, and Brook Cunningham

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.

II. Regular Business

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

Several items were added to the agenda.

2. Public Forum.

Mr. Lindberg and Mr. Grimaldi, as residents and Conservation Commission members, commended the Selectboard for bringing York Haverkamp to Waitsfield, noting that Mr. Haverkamp is working hard to get to know the community and is consistently seeking ways in which to help with his leadership and vision.

Bobbi Rood read a letter to the Board, proposing a non-binding resolution be adopted by the Town regarding a commitment to due process, equal protection, and Constitutional rights. Peter Franzoni provided some information on the background of the drafting of this resolution; he and others present voiced their support for its adoption. Ms. Rood read the resolution, and the Board agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the December 15 meeting.

3. Irasville Master Plan.

Ms. Harmon spoke of the feedback provided by Joshua Schwartz and the members of the Planning Commission, then outlined some of the possibilities provided through the plan, including Slow Road development as an initial phase of implementation.

Mr. Weir provided some background information on the project, the collaboration involved, and the communications with ANR/DEC regarding wetland conservation and impacts. He noted that the 70 dwellings proposed in the Plan are based upon the anticipated capacity of a fully built out wastewater system, and that there is no specific number proposed for the Slow Road area.

Board members provided some commentary regarding the reference to the recent Executive Order issued by the Governor which in part addresses wetlands, noting that it should be removed or at least deemphasized. They also indicated that a better understanding of how the

Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) might relate to the Plan would be useful, and noted that the context of long term planning in Waitsfield should always be provided when presenting the Plan.

4. Meadow Road bridge.

Mr. Haverkamp reported that he had followed through on the steps outlined at the previous meeting. He also explained that the level of FEMA assistance to be provided for the bridge is still unknown, and that a temporary bridge is unlikely to be funded/provided, but he will follow through with the application. It was discussed that, while VTrans has indicated that deferred maintenance is the reason for the bridge's reduced weight limit being imposed, there are VTrans staff who have expressed that the increased heavy traffic following the 2024 flooding did exacerbate the deterioration.

It was generally agreed that continued investigation of adding support to increase the life span of the bridge should be halted, as the need for a new bridge has become very obvious. CVRPC has assisted with a grant application for the engineering work needed for a new bridge; those awards have not yet been announced. Additional grant opportunities will be available in 2026.

The Senterfitts spoke of their concerns and voiced the opinion that the bridge should be replaced.

Mr. Messer reported that he had spoken with Stephan Pratt of Moretown, and that the Moretown Fire Department will respond if available to areas impacted by the bridge limitations. It was confirmed that the school bus service has come up with a plan so that buses do not need to use the bridge.

There was some discussion regarding the Town's inability to negate the agricultural exemption for the weight limit; Mr. Haverkamp will look into what might be done in the future to require that an alternate route be used by this equipment. He will also look into having a detour noted on online mapping services.

It was discussed that a further inspection report should be requested from VTrans in order to include structural failures as well as decking degradation.

Installation of cameras in order to provide the Sheriff's Department with information was agreed to, and it was discussed that signage/announcements noting that cameras are in place may also serve as a deterrent.

5. Resolution: Vermont 250th Anniversary.

It was indicated that Alice Peal has confirmed that the Historical Society will serve as the liaison with the State Commission and is planning an event for Waitsfield.

MOTION: *Mr. Curtis moved to adopt the Resolution as drafted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein, and passed unanimously.*

6. Village and Pink Brook Bridges.

Mr. Haverkamp reported that the deck repair for the Village Bridge is scheduled for November 25, with repairs of damage from vehicle impacts also to take place. He also noted that Miles Jenness will be completing a more detailed inspection prior to outlining the more comprehensive repair plans.

Mr. Haverkamp explained that the Road Department will be fixing the recent damage done to the Pine Brook bridge by two separate vehicle impacts, and that Miles Jenness will also be looking at this bridge's floorboards and completing an inspection.

7. Budget Planning.

Mr. Shupe outlined that there will be a meeting with Fayston on December 8 to discuss Fire Department and shared road maintenance budget areas, that he has been working with Mr. Haverkamp in preparation for budget work, that the Road Department budget will likely be the first area addressed, and that a Board meeting is scheduled for every Monday in January. Mr. Haverkamp also reported that he has been discussing budgeting with Jennifer Petersen, and that he has been looking into different health care coverage options.

It was noted that the striping on the east side of the Village Bridge should be part of budgeting discussions with Josh Rogers.

8. Meeting Schedule.

It was confirmed that the Board will be meeting on December 8th with the Fayston Selectboard at the Fire Stateion, and that a regular meeting is scheduled for December 15th.

9. Review of Minutes.

The minutes of the November 10 meeting were amended and approved.

10. Consent Agenda.

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

- Approve Bills Payable & Treasurer's Warrants

11. Town Administrator Report.

Mr. Haverkamp noted that the Traffic Ordinance will be coming back to the Board for further review, and that the Animal Ordinance has been published.

12. Selectboard Roundtable.

Mr. Babbott-Klein reported that the MRVPD is working on the FY27 Work Plan and Budget, with a goal of a 5% increase for funders. He outlined the proposed Work Plan, and it was agreed that continued engagement by the PD with the CRV work should be included in that Plan.

Ms. Ursprung asked about follow up regarding the recent accident that caused significant damage to Village buildings; Mr. Haverkamp will look into the available information, and request that any responsible liquor licensee have a conversation with the Board if appropriate.

13. 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] and (a)(10) [cybersecurity], inviting Mr. Haverkamp to join, passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:32 pm and returned to open session at 9:14 pm.

MOTION: *Mr. Messer moved to approve a contract with Timberline Electric to install a new circuit breaker at the General Wait House in order to connect the furnace. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein and passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *Mr. Messer moved to grant the Town Garage Preliminary Design contract to Breadloaf Construction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis and passed unanimously.*

III. Other Business

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary