

# TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

**Draft**

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

**Staff Present:** York Haverkamp, Town Administrator

**Others Present:** Alice Peal

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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)**  
An Executive Session was added to the agenda.

### **2. Public Forum**

Nobody requested time to speak to the Board.

## **II. Regular Business**

### **1. Review and approval of the FY27 Budget and 2026 Town Meeting Warning**

Mr. Shupe reviewed the changes made to the budget during a recent review by himself, Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Haverkamp, and the following was agreed upon:

- An additional \$15K was budgeted for cyber security work, this will cover \$12K in monthly fees plus \$3K for planning.
- Budget lines with no entry for several years were deleted where appropriate.
- Mr. Curtis confirmed that he had checked all the spreadsheet formulas after it was discovered that one was not calculating correctly.
- The Appropriations section was edited to reflect correctly those which are new and require a separate Article.
- A reduction in Parks Maintenance by \$1K due to the amount of work taken on by Steward MRV. (This also led to a reminder that lilacs need to be planted this spring in front of the generator fence, to comply with the approved landscaping plan.)
- Clarification of Road Department revenue related to MRPG work, resulting in entering the grant offset for this work as revenue.
- Confirmation that no major change to debt service payments will be reflected in the FY27 budget, as the two loans which will be completed still require payments this year.
- Agreement that the estimated 0.3% increase for the Grand List is conservative, but should be left in place for the outline of the anticipated tax rate presented in the budget materials.

The matching funds for a Transportation Corridor grant which had been applied for by Mad River Path was a point of discussion. The Board had committed to providing \$60K from the Transportation Path/Sidewalk Reserve, with an additional \$60K to be provided if the grant is awarded. The grant awards have not yet been announced; the current balance of the Reserve is \$72K. It was agreed that there is known and potential sidewalk work to be covered through

that fund, that there may be other Corridor-related match requests in coming months, and that the adjustments made to the budget allow for a \$10K contribution to the Path/Sidewalk Reserve in the FY27 budget.

It was calculated that the draft budget reflects a 2.8% increase over the current fiscal year, before any approval of special Articles.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Curtis moved to approve Waitsfield's FY27 Budget in the amount of \$2,874,507, of which \$2,376,777 is to be raised through property taxes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babbott-Klein, and passed unanimously.*

Some grammar and formatting edits for the Town Meeting Warning were agreed to.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Messer moved to approve the 2026 Town Meeting Warning as finalized by the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis, and passed unanimously.*

### **3. Consent Agenda**

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

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### **4. Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Haverkamp had no highlights to report.

### **5. Selectboard Roundtable**

Board members had nothing to report.

### **III. 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)(E) [Pending Litigation], inviting Mr. Haverkamp to join, passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 5:02 pm and returned to open session at 5:17 pm. No further action was taken by the Board.

### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary