

1 **TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT**

2 **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

3 **Monday, May 11, 2026**

4 **Draft**

5
6 **Members Present:** David Babbott-Klein, Chach Curtis, Fred Messer, Brian Shupe, Larissa
7 Ursprung

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

9 **Others Present:** MRVTV

10
11 **I. Selectboard Meeting Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Brian
12 Shupe. The meeting was held in person at the Waitsfield Town Office and remotely via Zoom.

13
14 **1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)**

15 One item was removed from the Consent Agenda.

16
17 **2. Public Forum**

18 Nobody requested time to speak.

19
20 **II. Regular Business**

21 **1. Treasurer's Report**

22 Mr. Haverkamp highlighted some items included in the report, noting that revenues had been
23 higher than anticipated, and would likely exceed expenditures. The current unassigned balance
24 was reported to be \$853,046, which is greater than the two months of expenses required by
25 policy to be held in reserve, leaving some available for upcoming infrastructure expenses. Mr.
26 Shupe pointed out that there is potential to apply some of this balance when the tax rate is
27 determined, and maintain a stable tax rate.

28
29 **2. Mad River Path (MRP) – MOU for Transportation Alternatives Program grant**

30 Mr. Haverkamp provided a draft MOU, outlining that day-to-day operations of work completed
31 under this grant will be taken on by the MRP Project Manager, but that all major decisions will
32 be made by the Town, and that MRP has no authority to obligate funds. He noted that Misha
33 Golfman had already signed the MOU, and had expressed no concerns.

34
35 **MOTION:** *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to approve the MOU between Waitsfield and MRP Inc. as*
36 *drafted, and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a related letter to VTrans. The motion*
37 *was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

38
39 **3. Von Trapp Farm Road Closure Request**

40 Mr. Haverkamp explained that this request is for closing the Common Road for approximately
41 an hour on the farm's annual pasture turn-out day. It was agreed that this closure may be
42 allowed, based upon Mr. Haverkamp's coordinating for appropriate signage to be in place.

43 **4. Traffic Ordinance**

44 Mr. Shupe outlined that, while updating the Ordinance to reflect current speed limits, it was
45 also decided to include designations of weight limits for covered bridges as well as language
46 providing for the assessment of fines for bridge damage caused by vehicles.

47

48 Mr. Haverkamp highlighted the weight limits established for the Village and Pine Brook covered
49 bridges, with the fines to be imposed set according to statute (for which there is no flexibility
50 allowed to municipalities). He also noted the provision for issuing a civil penalty to cover the
51 cost of bridge repairs when suitable.

52

53 Mr. Haverkamp reviewed language to be added to the draft, allowing for only one car at a time
54 to be crossing the Village covered bridge.

55

56 It was agreed to direct the Sheriff's Department to issue related warnings in coming weeks.

57

58 **MOTION:** *Ms. Ursprung moved to adopt Version 2 of the Traffic Ordinance, to include the*
59 *amendment regarding multiple cars on the bridge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer,*
60 *and passed unanimously.*

61

62 **5. Sand Hauling Bid**

63 Mr. Haverkamp reported that six bids had been received, with the lowest provided by Blue
64 Mountain Trucking and Excavating. He indicated that he had received positive references for
65 BMTE, and had discussed the bids with Charlie Goodman and Josh Rogers.

66

67 **MOTION:** *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to award a sand hauling contract to BMTE in the amount of*
68 *\$30K. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

69

70 **6. Belden Clock Fund**

71 Mr. Messer provided some background information about the Belden Block, and the
72 establishment of the Clock Fund was explained. Mr. Shupe indicated that the Town does have
73 the authority to expend the balance and extinguish the fund. He confirmed that the church has
74 been responsible for clock maintenance throughout the years.

75

76 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer moved to authorize a payment of \$2027.59 to the Waitsfield United*
77 *Church of Christ Inc., for reimbursement of 63 years of clock maintenance expenses, funds to be*
78 *drawn from the Belden Clock Reserve, and that Fund to be closed out. The motion was*
79 *seconded by Ms. Ursprung, and passed unanimously.*

80

81 **7. Infrastructure Work**

82 A quote for sidewalk repair at three locations had been received from Kingsbury Companies, for
83 a total of \$29,034. It was discussed that the Bridge Street Marketplace entrance from Main
84 Street might be included in this work, but that a quote was needed for this, as well as for the
85 section of sidewalk in front of the Valley Players building.

86

87 **MOTION:** *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to approve expending \$29,034 for sidewalk repair, with the*
88 *understanding that a further quote will be requested for the Bridge Street Marketplace entrance*
89 *and the Valley Players area. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

90

91 It was agreed that a conversation with Kelly Mazer, and possibly Chris Pierson, is necessary in
92 order to determine what role the Town may take in repairing certain sections of the Bridge
93 Street Marketplace parking.

94

95 Pat Travers had also reported drainage concerns at the Couples Club entrance drive; it was
96 confirmed that the Road Crew will be installing storm drainage at that site.

97

98 Mr. Haverkamp noted that the Road Crew summer work plan was included in the meeting
99 packet. He also confirmed that he continues to address RRFB misfunctions, with all of those in
100 working order except for one at Carroll Road, which he is working to remedy.

101

102 It was agreed to schedule a site visit to Dana Hill Road in advance of any discussion regarding
103 potential reclassification of that road.

104

105 **8. Meadow Road Bridge – RFP for Modern Design/NBRC Timber for Transit**

106 It was agreed to approach planning for this bridge replacement through two parallel efforts,
107 one being the publication of an RFP seeking bridge designs and the other working with Miles
108 Jenness to develop an application for a Timber for Transit grant to install a covered bridge at
109 the Meadow Road location. It was agreed that the bridge design preferred is one traffic lane
110 with a pedestrian crossing incorporated. Mr. Haverkamp noted that Mr. Jenness had indicated
111 that a covered bridge may support up to 25 tons, which accommodates the Town's largest fire
112 truck. There was some discussion of what weight of agricultural equipment would be necessary
113 to accommodate.

114

115 Mr. Babbott-Klein spoke of needing signs to inform drivers that cameras are currently in
116 operation at the bridge.

117

118 **MOTION:** *Mr. Babbott-Klein moved to authorize the Town Administrator to expend up to \$1000*
119 *for signs for installation at the Meadow Road bridge, the signage to indicate that cameras are in*
120 *operation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messer, and passed unanimously.*

121

122 **8. Village Covered Bridge Inspection**

123 Mr. Haverkamp reported on the recent inspection of the bridge's joists, noting that several
124 were found to be in seriously poor condition, although the 3" white oak decking provides some
125 assurance that the bridge may remain in use until the joist repair is complete. He indicated that
126 the Road Crew will be completing the emergency repairs needed, and that he is pursuing some
127 strategies for having the full bridge repair work completed.

128

129 Explaining that it would be best to have the work completed in the fall of 2026, Mr. Haverkamp
130 outlined that a VTrans Structures Grant would likely be awarded for this work but that the
131 timeline for the grant award would likely mean the funds would not be available by the fall. He
132 indicated that he intends to apply through this grant program for other work, such as a match
133 for the FEMA work to be completed on Old Center Fayston Road culverts.

134

135 Board members agreed that a full joist replacement should be planned for in the fall, and
136 directed Mr. Haverkamp to publish an RFP for this work, specifying what types of wood are
137 suitable for use as the replacement joists.

138

139 **6. Consent Agenda**

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

- 141 • Approve Bills Payable & Treasurer’s Warrants
- 142 • Approve Minutes of 04.27.2026 Selectboard Meeting
- 143 • Approve Public Festival Permits:
 - 144 ○ Ski and Skate Sale
 - 145 ○ Kingsbury Valley Field Days
 - 146 ○ Mad Marathon
- 147 • Approve Flemer Field Use
 - 148 ○ Sugarbush Polo Club
- 149 • Approve renewal of a First- and Third-Class Liquor License and Outdoor Consumption
- 150 Permit for Mad Events
- 151 • Approve renewal of a First- and Third-Class Liquor License and Outdoor Consumption
- 152 Permit for The Rider’s Outpost

153

154 **11. Town Administrator’s Report**

155 Mr. Haverkamp:

- 156 • Provided information about his upcoming work schedule;
- 157 • Made note of the work recently completed by VTrans to clear Main Street of debris, and
- 158 indicated that these efforts will be continuing.

159

160 **12. Selectboard Roundtable**

161 Mr. Messer reported that there is now a mechanism on Front Porch Forum for posting alerts,
162 which he will begin using when needed, in addition to the other notifications he puts in place.

163 Mr. Haverkamp explained that FirstNet is now available, and that he is exploring the expansion
164 of that platform to other local users/uses.

165

166 Ms. Ursprung confirmed that she would attend the following day’s Emerald Ash Borer meeting.

167

168 Mr. Babbott-Klein noted that Waitsfield businesses have been sent information regarding the
169 implementation of LOT tax collections. It was confirmed that the Town web site will be
170 updated to include related links.

171

172 Mr. Babbott-Klein outlined recent changes to PILOT/LOT retention percentages which are now
173 pending in a Legislative conference committee; he explained that he did not yet draft a letter to
174 submit to Representatives, but would do so now that these changes are being finalized.

175

176 Mr. Shupe indicated that a draft Wastewater Allocation Policy would likely be ready for review
177 by the Board at a June meeting.

178

179 Ms. Ursprung noted that the Planning Commission will likely soon be presenting a draft Short
180 Term Rental Ordinance.

181

182 The Board requested that Mr. Haverkamp schedule a detailed Wastewater Project update at an
183 upcoming meeting.

184

185 **IV. Executive Session**

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

188

189 **MOTION:** *A motion to enter Executive Session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E) [Pending Litigation] and*
190 *1 VSA §313(a)(1)(B) [Personnel] inviting Mr. Haverkamp to join, passed unanimously.*

191

192 The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:54 pm and returned to open session at 8:09 pm.

193

194 **MOTION:** xxx

195

196 **V. Adjourn**

197 The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

198 Respectfully submitted,

199 Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary