

**Windham VT Selectboard Minutes
October 30, 2023 Regular Meeting
Held on Zoom Only**

Present:

Kord Scott, selectboard chair
Michael Pelton, selectboard
George Dutton, selectboard
Mary McCoy (Mac),
selectboard clerk

Bill Casey
Russell & Joyce Cumming
Ginny & David Crittenden
Tom & Lousie Johnson
David & Pat Cherry
Ron Cohen & Carrie Tintle
Phil & Ellen McDuffie

Abby Pelton
Cathy Edgerly Fales
Marueen Bell
Jeff Rubin
Pat McLaine
Marcia Clinton
Bill Dunkel

1. Start Recording and Call to Order

Kord called the meeting to order and started the recording at 5:30 PM.

2. Additions/deletions and/or changes to agenda – There were no changes.

3. Announcements – Kord said that the Window Dressers have finished their work. The emailed request for additional help produced the necessary volunteers.

4. Act on the minutes from the 10/16/23 and 10/23/23 selectboard meetings

Motion: To approve the minutes from 10/16/23. George moved, and all agreed.

Motion: To approve the minutes from 10/23/23. George moved, and all agreed.

5. Public Comments – Ryke Morales from the U.S. Small Business Administration was present in the town office to provide SBA information about small businesses applying for disaster relief. The deadline to do so was the next day 10/31/23 with a two week grace period. He urged small businesses to apply and said that doing so might also enable help from FEMA.

Russell complained that person involved in the possible conflict of interest was named on the agenda and stated verbally by the selectboard clerk. He also reminded the selectboard that they have no authority over the listers, and he said the selectboard should not have allowed the WES principal to vent about the listers in a selectboard meeting. Russ said if the principal had felt uncomfortable talking to the listers, she should have left the town office. Bill Casey agreed that selectboard meetings are not the forum to discuss issues about the listers. He said he was willing to meet with the school to discuss what happened. Russ said he would meet with the selectboard members but not in a selectboard meeting.

6. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

7. Payroll/Bills

Motion: To approve the pay orders from the town treasurer. George moved, and all agreed.

Motion: To have Kord sign for the payments presented. George moved, and all agreed.

8. Staff Reports and Discussions

A) Discuss/decide final steps for solar array – Mac reported that the panels are up, but must be inspected by the Dept. of Safety, which will take at least two weeks. Then the net metering program will need to be established with Green Mt. Power. One person needs to be designated at the town's contact person with GMP for net metering. She has spoken to Neighborhood

Connections and the West River Community Project about possibly receiving the excess energy we will generate until it is needed to power anticipated heat pumps in the Meeting House. Both nonprofits are interested in the possibility. George said he had spoken with the Windham Fire Company, and they are also interested. Mac also said that the ARPA Committee has finished its work, and she asked if the selectboard would OK the committee's dissolution.

Motion: To dissolve the ARPA Committee. Kord moved, but it was not agreed.

Carrie questioned why WRCP would get financial help if they receive rent for the post office. David Cherry commented that WRCP is housing DVFiber equipment at no charge. Mac and Kathy Scott were suggested as the contact person. George noted that the dissolution of the ARPA Committee was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Next Steps: Postpone until the next regular meeting decisions on the contact person for GMP, the recipient of the excess energy, and the dissolution of the ARPA Committee. Mac will send the description of the contact person's role to the selectboard and Kathy Scott.

B) Update on municipal planning grant and other grants – Cathy said the municipal and technical community granters are swamped by requests related to the July floods. Before we apply, we need to decide what we want most in terms of planning.

C) Update on Wheeler Road/FEMA project reimbursement request – The work is complete, and Imme is gathering the necessary information for reimbursement. We expect to receive \$300,000 to \$350,000 from FEMA.

D) Update of Rt. 121 culvert project, easement plans/letters to go out – Kord reported that the plan is completed, the easement letters have been drafted, and the letters will go out soon.

E) Update on current FHWA projects – Kord said Richard and Imme are working hard on this, with one open item, which is the culvert needed in South Windham. When it was reported to FHWA that we might move the old culvert from Wheeler to use in South Windham, we captured their interest. We might resolve the issue of the used culvert.

F) Update on current FEMA projects – After meeting with the FEMA project manager, we were able to add a couple of items that were not on our original damage inventory. If we upsize culverts one size, we can be covered by FEMA.

9. New Business

A) Registration renewal for SAM Cage Code 5J2C7, due 11/11/23 – Kord reported that he has taken care of this registration for receiving federal grants.

B) Discuss complaints re listers – Kord said he knows the selectboard has no authority over the listers, and he heard Russ say he was willing to meet to discuss the complaints the selectboard has received about the listers. Kord can organize a meeting so the listers and selectboard can hear each other and create an action plan for addressing the issues.

Next Step: When Kord returns, he will schedule the meeting.

10) Old Business

A) Reschedule executive session with Chris Cumming re conflict of interest – Kord said he heard Russ' complaint, but Chris' name related to this matter is no secret. Kord and Chris have spoken, and Chris apologized for not being there at the last meeting.

Next Step: When Kord returns, he will schedule an executive meeting with Chris.

B) Report on TAP grant for transportation alternatives – Kord spoke with Colin Braden at the Windham Regional Commission, and he is eager to help us with this grant.

Next Step: Michael will talk with Colin to discuss a wide range of grants, and Cathy will be included for her input.

C) Update re box culvert/beaver deceiver at Burbee Pond & West Windham Rds. – Kord got a message from the FEMA project director that FEMA will cover this. A price for the culvert is needed, which Richard will get. FEMA will not support a second culvert to handle anticipated overflow. Kord contacted Scott Jensen, the state’s regional stream engineer, and he will write a report to help with grants for this.

Next Step: Michael will contact Scott.

D) Discuss payment plan for the Meeting House stove exhaust hood – Before the selectboard discussed this, Maureen stated her disappointment that the selectboard had approved this expenditure, as it was not a priority for the Meeting House Committee. Tom said the committee was “blindsided” by the approval, as their priority is the heating system. Ron said taxpayers should not have to pay for this. Cathy said that by waiting to deal with the heating issues, we can receive the MERP energy audit and be eligible to receive as much as \$250,000.

Michael said we have two options for paying for the exhaust hood – the Meeting House M & I fund, and ARPA funds. George recommended using ARPA funds. Mac noted that the motion the selectboard passed for use of the ARPA funds says that until June 1, 2024, those funds can only be used as matching grants.

Next Steps: The decision of how to pay for the exhaust hood will be decided at the next meeting. Mac will send the selectboard the language related to the ARPA funds, and she will add to the parking lot a discussion of how the selectboard and the Meeting House Committee make future decisions.

Tom said the downstairs windows are leaky, despite having outside storm windows. Bill said the Window Dressers can make inside storm windows, if the Meeting House Committee says they want that.

E) Update on Town Office propane tank service request – George said he didn’t get to this, but will have a report for the next meeting.

F) Update on Meeting House monitoring system’s contacts and key lock box – Kord has not received a response from the monitoring service. Maureen said the alarm went off during the Library meeting, and the service called to see if there was a fire. But what if no one is there when the alarm goes off? Tom said the alarm goes off often for no reason.

Next Step: Pat will call the service and find out the purpose of the contact(s) they requested, how calls occur if there is an alarm, why the alarm is going off for no reason, and if having a key in a lock box meets the service’s needs.

G) Update on Altpfart property demolition – Bob Fisher has written a letter with a violation notice and an order for demolition, which Michael Simonds will send as zoning administrator. It will go out soon.

7. Adjourn regular meeting and stop recording

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:43PM. George moved, and all agreed.

**The next regular selectboard meeting is scheduled for
Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM**

Note: The meeting today 10/30/23 replaces the meeting
usually held on the first Monday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Approved November 20, 2023