

**Windham VT Selectboard Minutes
January 20, 2025 Regular Meeting
Held at the Meeting House and on Zoom**

Present at the Meeting House

Kord Scott, selectboard chair
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk

Present on Zoom

George Dutton, selectboard
Michael Pelton, selectboard
Maureen Bell
Kathy Jungermann
Tan Bronson
Bill Dunkle

Cathy Stover
Ron & Becky Phillips
Cathy Edgerly Fales
Abby Pelton
Barbara Jean Quinn
Ginny Crittenden
Pat McLaine

- 1. Start Recording and Call to Order** -- Kord called the meeting to order and started the recording at 5:33 PM.
- 2. Additions/deletions and/or changes to agenda** – The tax abatement will be discussed during Bill’s report.
- 3. Announcements** – Mac recognized that this is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in honor of a great America whose life continues to inspire others. Ellen said petitions for those running for office are due January 27 by 5:00 PM.
- 4. Act on the minutes from the January 13, 2024 selectboard meeting**
Motion: To approve the January 13, 2025 selectboard minutes; Michael moved, and all agreed.
- 5. Public Comments** – Michael said there will be an important meeting on Wednesday to gather ideas for the future of the school.
- 6. Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.
- 7. Payroll/Bills** – There was no payroll or bills to approve.
- 8. Staff Reports with Discussion and Possible Decisions**

A) Planning/Energy – Bill said the Planning Commission has agreed on a revised regulation for recreational vehicles. Previously, RVs could not be parked on property for more than 90 days without having a wastewater permit. This is a problem for people who park their RVs on their land when not traveling or staying elsewhere. The revised reg says if an RV is occupied for three consecutive weeks or more than 60 days per year, it needs a septic permit. Otherwise it is unregulated. Two public hearings must be held before this is enacted, one called by the Planning Commission and one called by the Selectboard. There are other zoning issues the PC is addressing to meet state requirements and to clean up some confusing language. None changes the effect of any current regs. Most changes simply make current regs clearer. There are also some clarifications needed for conditional uses. Bill said the PC hearing on RVs will be in later February, with the Selectboard meeting to follow. Tentative dates are 2/18 and 2/19.

Bill, Kord, and Bob Fisher met with representatives of the Friendly Gathering. The Zoning Board of Adjustment needs to hold a public hearing on the proposed event in Timber Ridge, and the date of Tuesday, February 25 was set with Wednesday, February 26 as an alternative. [Note: the 2/25/25 date was confirmed after this meeting.] Kord will represent the

Selectboard at the hearing. Also needed to be scheduled are Tax Abatement hearings. These were set for Monday, February 10.

B) Grant Strategist – Cathy F. said two meetings for an exchange of ideas about the future of the schoolhouse have been scheduled and the times have been posted in several places. The first meeting will be this Thursday 1/22 at 7:00 PM and the second on Wednesday 1/29 at 10:00 AM, both at the schoolhouse. Ideas can also be submitted via email. Residents are asked to consider what they think the town needs that could be provided if the town owned the schoolhouse. Maureen asked the Selectboard for their opinion, but they deferred to making a decision based on the input from the meetings. Cathy noted that the School Board wants the building to be used for educational or community uses. Voters will be able to express their opinions about the purchase at town meeting at Town Meeting, including amending the articles related to the schoolhouse.

C) Auditors – Kathy reported that their work on the Town Report is going well. They have received the majority of the needed reports and are finalizing their review of the designated funds. The report will be sent to the printer on February 3.

D) Town Clerk – Ellen was not present. She has indicated that the WCO might hold a candidates' forum prior to Town Meeting.

E) Social Services – Barbara Jean reported for the committee that they narrowed their focus to direct services, especially food insecurity. She said they feel they have presented a good list for funding.

9. Preparations for Town Meeting – Review and Edit Warning

Kord thanked Michael for his work in preparing the budgets and the Warning. Maureen helped to put the Warning up so all could see it on the Zoom screen. Kord went through it, noting new changes.

There was discussion about Article 15 to appropriate \$32,000 for the operation and associated costs of the schoolhouse. Michael explained that this was the amount budgeted for the schoolhouse, minus cleaning. It includes utilities and insurance. Barbara Jean wanted more details, and Pat wanted the actual costs. Kord will see if he can get that information. If necessary, the amount can be amended at Town Meeting. Tan wondered about the sequence of articles at Town Meeting. Michael explained that the way Article 15 was written, it didn't matter if the vote on buying the schoolhouse came before or after this article. It was noted that the school's current budget runs until June.

There were questions about Article 17 which provides funds for the Brattleboro Business Development Corp. Cathy F. will provide a paragraph on this to have for Town Meeting.

Motion: To approve the Warning with the corrections discussed and others determined. George moved and all agreed.

10. New Business

A) Discuss appointing an Ethics Liaison to serve the state's Ethics Commission – Kord said Act 171 requires each town to provide a liaison to this new commission. George volunteered for the job.

B) Discuss Cynthia Stoddard's suggestion re Town Office policy(s) – Michael said Cynthia from NEMRC recommended that a policy be created for bills coming in and payments

going out, so they are reviewed by the appropriate town official who would determine how they should be coded into the financial records. This system is already in place for the Road expenses.

Next Step: Put this on the parking lot to be addressed at another meeting.

10) Old Business

A) Report on first 12 months of Solar Production – Mac reviewed the situation, saying the electricity generated by the solar panels on the Town Office roof is credited to four town buildings – the Town Office, Meeting House, Town Garage, and Firehouse. In its first 12 months, the panels generated 19,704 kWh, which was 95% of the generation predicated by Southern Vermont Solar, the installers of the array. Of the generation, 85% was used by the four buildings. The other 15% appears to have been credited to our Net Meter Bank for use during winter months when generation decreases. The total of \$2,595.26 was saved on the bills for the four buildings, and \$522.88 was credited to our New Meter Bank. The amount saved was 49.6% of the bills of the four buildings. The other 50.4% is GMP costs that are not specific to the actual kWh used.

11) Adjourn special meeting and stop recording.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. George moved, and all agreed.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy (Mac), selectboard clerk
Approved February 3, 2025