

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

Present: Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Peter Hammond, Adrienne Parker, Eben Patch, Paul Warden

Others: John Sutherland, Erik Bailey, Ken Tourangeau, BJ Putvain, Rich Westman, Beth Mauch, Sherry Kollmann, Art Klugo, Patricia Turley, Barry Harte

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Paul called the meeting to order at 6:30.

2. Consider Additions or Adjustments to Agenda

Paul said the statute reference for the executive session will be corrected and a second executive session will be added for the selectboard to discuss contract negotiations.

3. Public Comment and Public Announcements

Those present introduced themselves.

4. Selectboard Updates and/or Concerns

Selectboard members had no updates or concerns.

5. Work Session

Vermont State University Chancellor Beth Mauch said the purpose of this meeting is for Vermont State Colleges and VTSU leadership to provide updates on exciting ideas they have for the Johnson campus. She introduced Sherry Kollmann, the new VTSU president. Sherry said she grew up in a small town and rural communities in Vermont are important to her.

Beth said there are some investments already being made on the Johnson campus that are public. One is the senior housing that will be in McClelland Hall. VTSU has been working with Downstreet on that for the last couple of years. The nursing expansion on the Johnson campus is complete. They will have a cohort of nursing students on campus this fall. That cohort is full already. There is tremendous interest in it. The VSC and VTSU representatives are asking to go into executive session to discuss some other ideas. They want the selectboard and village trustees to have an opportunity to see what they are doing and provide feedback.

BJ Putvain asked if the nursing program is online or in person or both. Beth said they are building nursing classrooms to have students on campus. They have online nursing programs throughout the state as well.

Erik Bailey suggested VTSU could consider a mountaineering leadership certificate program. There is a climbing wall on the Johnson campus. The nearby Army Mountain Warfare School is a great resource for climbing instructors. He feels there must be a need in the area. There is also a very large need for education and training for the next generation of wastewater treatment facility operators. It is a very technical field. The training hasn't traditionally been at the college level, but as it gets more complicated it needs to be. The test passing rate is low. The average age of wastewater treatment facility operators in Vermont is 53.

Paul moved to go into executive session under 1 VSA § 313(a)(2) and 1 VSA § 313(a)(6) to discuss Vermont State University real property planning and its related confidential business

planning records, protected from public disclosure under 1 VSA 317(c)(9), and/or 1 VSA 317(c)(13), inviting selectboard and village trustee members, the town administrator and village manager, Beth Mauch, Sherry Kollmann, Art Klugo, Patricia Turley, Barry Harte, Rich Westman, and Donna Griffiths. Eben seconded and the motion was passed at 6:14.

The board consented out of executive session at 7:35.

6. ***Executive Session – Contract Negotiations***

Paul moved to go into executive session as allowed by 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(A) for contract negotiations, inviting John to remain, Adrienne seconded and the motion was passed at 7:39.

The board consented out of executive session at 8:13.

7. ***Adjourn***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths