

TOWN OF WHEELOCK  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
2025-04-01, 6:00pm  
MINUTES

**Present:** Selectboard members Ann Lawless & Mike Richardson, recorder Meaghan Rinehart with Enid Ellis and Teresa Stimpson via Zoom

6:01pm **Call to Order**

**Changes to Agenda:** signing of Certificate of No Appeals, Bond Bank discussion to be added to treasurers report and cemetery task force added to new business. Visitor comments will be conducted prior to the Executive Eession.

**ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

**Adopt Selectboard minutes of 3/18/2025** Mike motions, seconded by Ann, to adopt minutes of 3/18/25. All in favor, so voted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Animal Control Ordinance** Discussion was had regarding the creation of a dog ordinance and specifically what should and should not be included to best serve the needs of the Town, constable and animal control officer. Meaghan will continue working on the draft.

**MERP updates** Ann gave an update on the Implementation Project. Windows RFPs were sent to windows preservation contractors on the consultant list on the website of the Preservation Trust of VT. Regarding the Energy Fair on May 17, all the presenters invited plan to attend, and post card mailings are in the works.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Sign Certificate of No Appeals** Mike motions, seconded by Ann, to sign Certificate of No Appeals. All in favor, so voted.

**Bond Bank** Ann reported the VT Bond Bank is able to lend \$230,000 to the town. Funds can only be used for either disaster expenses or to pay off loans used for disaster expenses. A portion of FEMA payouts must be applied to pay back the Bond Bank balances. Specifics and documents are expected prior to our 4/15 Selectboard meeting for votes and signatures prior to the closing expected May 8. A portion of the Bond Bank loan will be used to pay off the line of credit of \$300,000 we took out in August 2024. We will have used approximately \$111,468 including interest. The remainder can be used to pay back our own funds that we borrowed from, including ARPA and reserve funds. This loan cannot be used to pay down the loan of \$225,000 we borrowed in January 2025 in anticipation of taxes. The legal fees to process the loan should be under \$1000.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Transfer Station meeting planning** Concern was raised by our PACIF insurance that if the transfer station management is restructured, we need to be sure it can still cover liability insurance. Ann will follow up with Sheffield to see if there are updates from the January meeting. Tabled until a meeting date is set and more information is gathered.

**Wheelock Fire District** Jim Blackbird dropped off the Wheelock Fire District files at the town office as he no longer intends to work with the district. Ann met with Ashley Lucht of Quantified Ventures, a state consultant, earlier this day. Coincidentally, Jim dropped in. Ashley plans to meet with Jim next week to go over the financials at his home. Jim took back the files and plans to conduct the water quality testing in April.

**Cemetery Task Force** Liz Muckerman had requested the Selectboard to appoint the following individuals to the Cemetery Task Force. Liz Muckerman, Wendy Bora, Patti Baker, Wendy Tidhar and Hannah Tidhar. Liz had proposed the following charge for 2025:

1. The Task Force is permitted access to do work for the full season, and is permitted to supervise volunteers who sign town release forms.
2. To hold monthly meetings and cemetery work days, April to November, 2025, with supervision of volunteers who join the work days.
3. To continue to clean, reset and repair stones as time permits and to work toward restoring the town's cemeteries and grounds to well kept condition, in accordance with the goals of the Town Plan.

Mike motions, seconded by Ann, to appoint the members and accept their charges as written. All in favor, so voted.

## ROADS

**Truck update** New truck is being used for plowing and sanding and is working well.

**Damage to garage** No bids to date.

**Proposed purchases:** sand, parts, tires. Mike motions seconded by Ann, to purchase sand from Gingue's at \$6.15 YD for crushed and \$5.15 for screened sand in the amount approved by the budget. All in favor, so voted.

At this time it was determined more information was needed in regards to tires and grader blade purchases. Mike motions, seconded by Ann to deputize Chuck to make these decisions. All in favor, so voted.

**Road updates** Materials were added to Stannard Mountain Rd, Aldrich Rd, and S Wheelock Rd. A temporary fix has been put on Peak for now. Spring plans for roads are awaiting weather improvements and decisions to be made on equipment needed.

**Driveway permits** Plans and submissions will be forwarded to Mike. Some have been checked and others are waiting on improved weather conditions.

**FEMA 2024 update** Retired River Engineer Patrick Ross, currently contracted with Vt Emergency Management to help towns with FEMA, plans to visit the sites in town on Thursday 4/3 where the repair work and possible future mitigation work have yet to be completed. There is a list of projects the Town needs advice on and possibly additional permitting. FEMA will allow us to requisition for Scott Lange's summer and fall hours when he was managing all our projects. This will happen later.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Review and sign warrants** Mike motions, seconded by Ann to review and sign warrants. All in favor, so voted.

There were no visitor comments or correspondence.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8:04pm Mike motions, seconded by Ann to go into Executive Session to discuss road applicants. They came out of Executive Session at 8:09 with no action proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

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Ann Lawless, chair

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Mike Richardson

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Chuck Dill