

**TOWN OF WHEELOCK
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

July 15th, 2025 6 PM

At Wheelock Town Hall upstairs and via Zoom

Present: The Selectboard Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, and Chuck Dill, Town Clerk Erin Swigart, recorder Meaghan Rinehart and residents Bobbie Jo and Richard Norcross.

6:00pm Call to Order

Any changes to agenda; Erin presented overweight permits for review

No delinquent tax report

Moving FEMA discussion to 2nd item in Roads

ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Adopt Selectboard minutes of 7/01/2025

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to adopt minutes of 7/1/25. All in favor, so voted.

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign overweight permits. All in favor, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS

Delinquent Taxes report

The delinquent tax collector was unable to attend and present.

NEW BUSINESS

Reappraisal

Reappraisal process will be started tomorrow, mailers will be going out.

Ann noted we need Planning Commission recruits (looking towards updating the town plan). The current Town Plan expires at end of 2027 and we need to recruit people to work on it. In addition the Town will need to adopt (readopt) a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

The clerk reports funding concerns and warns we may need to consider another line of credit to cover Town bills until tax payments or potential FEMA payouts.

ROADS

Chuck provided road updates. Stannard Mountain Rd resurfacing is just about complete and possibly finished tomorrow. Road crew is completing odd things that need to get done in between.

Following the flooding on July 11, 2025, state bridge engineers told us Fall Brook Rd Bridge must be closed. Options were discussed.

FEMA

Ann spoke with retired State bridge engineer Patrick Ross working with VT Emergency Management. He suggested to her that a project manager could be helpful in dealing with major bridge repairs. A draft qualification request has been prepared.

Minister Hill Bridge needs far more extensive repair than FEMA will cover. FEMA will only reimburse for 8 ft of the 600 ft of embankment that needs work and they will not cover the abutment because these damages existed prior to the July 2024 flooding. Ann was advised by Logan Perron, VTrans District 7 manager to seek a VTrans grant in April that will cover the full 600 ft embankment, debris removal and abutment. Grant max is \$175,000. Ann suggested we remove Minister Hill Bridge from FEMA consideration if possible. Grants are competitive and not a guarantee.

Fall Brook Rd Bridge was allocated \$19,725 for FEMA Architecture and Engineering (A & E.) Three firms recommended by Patrick Ross were contacted two got back. Request for qualifications has been drafted.

Boulay Rd embankment A & E project can be pulled from FEMA consideration if request is made in writing on Town letterhead. The Selectboard feels the Project would be better managed in house using a sketch and bypass A & E stage required by FEMA.

S Wheelock Rd project involves removing trees, hardening embankment and moving guard rails on a 900 foot section.

Welch Rd is off the table for now.

Bids

The Selectboard reviewed drafts of two bid requests and two qualifications requests. Fall Brook Bridge requires advanced engineering services and environmental evaluation. Boulet Rd embankment and S Wheelock Rd could be bid by local contractors. FEMA project manager request for qualification was also prepared.

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to put out these 4 requests. All in favor, so voted.

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to change response date from 8/5/25 to 8/4/25 to accommodate picking them up at the post office. All in favor, so voted.

Auction of 09 truck and other items

At this time truck auction was still open and \$7300 was the highest. Mike explained the seller (Town) must agree to final bid and since it was still ongoing we should wait, and discussion of number in mind was had. (see note 2)

Driveway permits

Erin presented a pending request and Mike will continue to follow up.

Grants: S Wheelock Rd, Grants-in-Aid awarded \$11,500

S Wheelock Rd VTrans grant project to be started after Stannard Mountain Rd is completed. Project needs to be completed before 9/30. It will require flaggers and the road taken down to one lane of traffic.

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to sign contract for Grants In Aid GA1170. All in favor, so voted.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Review and sign warrants

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

CORRESPONDENCE VISITOR COMMENTS

None

Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to accept the highest bid for truck auction. All in favor, so voted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adjourn. All in favor, so voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

NOTE 1: Joint meeting of the Wheelock and Sheffield Selectboards July 23, 2025, 6pm Wheelock Town Hall. Agenda and meeting packet are posted on town website and will be posted in print posting locations.

NOTE 2: Bid for truck came in after the meeting was adjourned. Final bid is \$13,000 exceeding the amount estimated for sale.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless, chair

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill