

TOWN OF WHEELLOCK
SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 9, 2025

Wheelock Town Hall 6pm

Draft for Distribution

Present: Wheelock Selectboard Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, Chuck Dill. Theresa Stimpson, Enid Ellis, Carol Rossi, recorder Meaghan Rinehart and Kathy Schmidt on Zoom

6:00pm Call to Order

Ann announced that visitor comments during Selectboard meetings will be limited to two minutes.

Agenda changes: Added to Old Business: Listers' Errors and Omissions Report. Added to FEMA: Vote to request FEMA Alternate Project funding for Fall Brook Road Bridge. She also noted that NEKCV (re Broadband) has sent its financial reports as required to all member municipalities, and they are posted on the town website.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck go into Executive Session

All in favor, so voted, 6:07pm

6:17pm Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to return from Executive Session. All in favor, so voted.

Payroll benefit situation resolved.

ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Adopt Selectboard minutes of 9/16 and 9/30

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt minutes of 9/16 and 9/30 with documents from Kim Hathaway to be added to town records, but not to Selectboard minutes.

All in favor, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS

Delinquent Taxes

Emily Purdy, Delinquent Tax Collector, was contacted to attend. Erin has training set up with Emily next week that could help with software and sharing of information.

Planning Commission appointments

Ann reported that Carol Amos, Theresa Stimpson and Meaghan Rinehart have volunteered for the commission.

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to approve Carol Amos, Theresa Stimpson and Meaghan Rinehart for the planning commission.
All in favor, so voted.

Opioid Settlement, secondary, due Oct 8

Ann noted that she signed a second form regarding legal settlements from a secondary group of pharmaceutical companies. No funds will come to the town, but our form helps the state recoup revenue.

Errors and Omissions Report

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign the report from the Listers which had been presented to the selectboard at a previous meeting but we had neglected to sign it. All in favor, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Aaron Warner, from Sheffield, request to use town green

Tabled

CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin announced that through Act 25, \$20,000 was released to the Town to deposit into our General Fund. A routine roads payment was also received. Tax payments are coming in. She noted that she has begun the year-long pilot Treasurer training through VLCT.

ROADS

Road updates

Chuck noted that three culverts that failed in March have been replaced.

Excavator was rented for this and some ditch work on Vertical Mile, Blakely, John Rock and Sutton Roads as time permitted.

More culverts need to be cleaned out.

Grading has been started however the drought is making it difficult.

Town Hall septic risers were checked and Vac truck from Lyndonville was used to remove silt build up. Septic will be pumped. Total for riser lid replacement is \$350.

Chuck will meet with a Better Roads grant rep to begin work on a grant application,, possibly for Morgan Rd East.

Theresa mentioned there is a missing stop sign on John Rock. Chuck said the road

crew is aware of that sign and several others missing, some of which have sawed off posts.

FEMA update

Ann reported she had signed Requisition #4 and \$24,361.00 will be coming soon which brings payments up to date for projects completed.

FEMA has pulled out of the state and we are currently working with a regional rep at weekly meetings.

VT Emergency Management (VEM) has been pushing us to move forward with our remaining projects and use opportunities for Alternate Project (AP) funding for Fall Brook Road and Welch Rd. Fall Brook will be discussed now and Welch Rd will be warned for the next meeting agenda.

Fall Brook alternate project

The Town may request AP funding if it is not possible to do a project because, for instance, in the case of Fall Brook bridge, we cannot fix it to its pre-2024 conditions because it was so damaged in the July 2025 flooding that the state required us to close the bridge. AP approval requires that funds be spent on things that benefit the entire town. An equipment purchase is the easiest type of AP project because it does not require bidding or contracts. The maximum amount we could receive from FEMA is \$160,106.99. Chuck got an estimate for a new backhoe with forks, delivery and warranty for \$138,750.00. He and Ann will get a quote for culverts for the balance, \$21,349.00. Ann has received VEM guidance and will send the letter requesting the Alternate Project to VEM and if approved it will go to FEMA.

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, we accept and apply for Alternate Project funding for Fall Brook Rd. bridge for a backhoe and culverts.

All in favor, so voted.

Earlier on 10/9 Ann and Chuck met with Norwich University professor and engineering students, and with Pat Moulton, Flood Recovery Officer from Agency of Administration. The group visited both the Welch Rd crossing and Fall Brook Bridge to discuss a student capstone project to develop engineering plans. After viewing both sites the team decided Fall Brook Bridge was the better option for them. The project would take 2 semesters to complete and would need to be stamped by a licensed engineer. With regards to Welch Rd crossing the team determined there were too many variables and expensive elements. VTrans has stated the Town has fulfilled its obligations in regards to Welch Rd crossing.

Ann noted that at the 9/29 meeting the Selectboard voted to approve and sign a contract with GEODesign for embankments on Boulay Road and South Wheelock Road, near Ballfield Drive. Contracts are in progress and GEODesign tentatively plans to drill borings on 11/18/25.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Carol spoke regarding her letter requesting no budget increases. She asked the Selectboard to not increase the tax rate, citing our low income population, and very small grand list.

Theresa inquired about the sign on Carol's lawn notifying people that petitions for Social Service Agency requests for Town Meeting 2026 have been placed at Town Hall be the agencies.

7:07pm Ann motions, seconded by Chuck for a comfort break.
All in favor, so voted.

7:09 Mike motions, seconded by Ann to reenter the meeting.
All in favor, so voted.

Discussion continued regarding the sign on Carol's lawn. Ann stated that at this time the Selectboard is unaware that there is any prohibition, but she will check with VLTC to make sure.

Meaghan asked whether our Town has any emergency procedures for drought. Ann stated she has updated the town website with the latest information from VEM. There are links to water haulers, and a request to report loss of water, and other available resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Review and sign warrants

Ann motions, seconded by Mike to sign warrants.
All in favor, so voted.

ADJOURNMENT

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to adjourn.
All in favor, so voted.
Meeting adjourned 7:37pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless, chair

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill