

## WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

In person at Westminster, VT Town Hall

**Selectboard Present:** Dan Crocker (chair) Jason Perry (vice chair), Real Bazin (clerk) and Stephen Major, Katrina Hamilton was absent

**Staff Present:** Millie Barry (clerk), Lou Bordeaux (town manager), Ben Masure (road foreman)

**Others Present:** Nancy Dalzell, Franklin Austin (Green Mountain Power), Annie Smith, Yvette Hendler, David Major, Bonnie Anderson, Betsy Thurston and Cameron O'Brien.

1. **Call to Order:** Dan Crocker, chair of the Selectboard, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. This meeting was not recorded by FACT TV. Information to access a future meeting using a remote connection, when available, is on the Town of Westminster website or by contacting the Westminster town hall.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes** – January 21, 2025 – Stephen Major motioned to accept the minutes of January 21, 2025, Real Bazin seconded, motion passed by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Major).
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** None
5. **Unfinished Business:** None
6. **New Business:** (Discussion/Action) –
  - A. Betsy Thurston – Route 121 Safety Action Plan – Ms. Thurston, on behalf of the Town of Rockingham, shared information titled Rockingham Safety Action Plan dated 1/16/2025. Data detailed motor vehicle crashes, those involving pedestrians, location (setting), condition (miles per hour), speed, and presence of sidewalk(s). Incidents occurred from Route 35 in Cambridgeport to Bellows Falls red light, 7.6 miles, years 2015-2024. Real Bazin commented that the data showed the number of crashes were decreasing, believing the Windham County Sheriff presence contributed to the reduction in number of incidents. Lou Bordeaux commented that radar signs would be installed in the Westminster area July 2025. Ms. Thurston noted a vision zero statement, *“Whereas (in part) the Town of Westminster is participating in the creation of a comprehensive roadway Safety Action Plan on Route 121 from Bellows Falls to Saxtons River as part of the Safe Streets and Roads for all (SS4A) program.”* Dan Crocker read the resolution aloud. Jason Perry motioned to sign the resolution, Real Bazin seconded (Perry, Bazin, Major) in favor of motion) giving Rockingham eligibility for implementation funding.
  - B. Green Mountain Power – pole installation – Jason Perry noted due to a conflict of interest; he would not participate in discussion. Franklin Austin noted a project from the substation of Back Westminster Road to the south end of Shady Pines mobile home park. The project (in part) includes overhead wires, new, taller wood poles, tree clearing and limbing in the right-of-way. Stephen Major believed it was reasonable for the Board to pressure GMP to be sure they were communicating with the communication companies to move communications wires to improve infrastructure. Mr. Austin noted the enforcement mechanism with GMP did not exist. Stephen Major motioned to amend the agreement to include, *“this permit is contingent on a plan being created with the communication companies to complete the moving of all lines to the new poles.”* Real Bazin seconded, motion passed (Crocker, Bazin, Major). Real Bazin motioned to accept the amended GMP agreement, Stephen Major seconded, motion carried (Crocker, Bazin,

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Major).

**C.** Registration form to receive selectboard agenda – Stephen Major motioned to create an automated email system for sending the selectboard agenda (to those requesting an agenda) through the Westminster website. Jason Perry seconded, motion carried (Perry, Bazin, Major).

**D.** Town Manager’s Report –

- Town Meeting article language approved by legal counsel
- Town plan request for proposal was distributed, bids will be opened Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- Contact made to Windham/Windsor Housing regarding potential properties available in Westminster.
- Webinars: AI (artificial intelligence) for city/county managers and VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) town meeting
- Audit report added to website
- Fire District #5 meeting with Gail Rogers
- Grand List research with NEMRC (New England Management Resource Center)
- Lachlan Francis, planning commission, has contacted Amy Sheldon, chair of the land use review board regarding ACT 250 impact on Westminster.

**E.** Executive Session – None

**7. Other Business:**

- Dan Crocker talked about and read a series of emails to various town officials, and that he received personally from B.P. Murray. Mr. Crocker also read his personal responses as well as responses from the Town Manager. Mr. Crocker stated there was a motion previously approved by the Board that Mr. Murray’s emails be forwarded to legal counsel stating his belief that more be done to support the Manager. Mr. Major suggested, in the case of emails received in a private email, messages be blocked and an automatic business reply to Mr. Murray stating his messages have been forwarded to legal counsel. Mr. Bordeaux stated the Town legal counsel has advised, statutorily, the Manager is not required to respond to any email. Mr. Bordeaux’s concern is each time an email is forwarded to legal counsel the process is costing the Town a lot of money. Jason Perry motioned to authorize the Town Manager to only reply to B.P. Murray email/communication when legally advised by Town Counsel. Stephen Major seconded, motion carried (Perry, Bazin, Major).
- In another matter – The Board complimented Ben Masure and the road crew about the great job being done to maintain roads.

**8. Executive Session: None**

**9. Date of Next Meeting:** February 25, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**10. Adjournment:** Real Bazin motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Jason Perry seconded, meeting adjourned.

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Clerk

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Date

Minutes composed by Millie Barry 2/15/2025

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