

WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Remote and in person at Westminster, VT Town Hall

Selectboard Present: Craig Allen (chair), Real Bazin (vice chair), Jason Perry (clerk) and Stephen Major

Not Present: Charles (Chuck) Lawrence

Staff Present: Louis Bordeaux (Town Manager) and Ben Masure (Road Foreman)

Others Present: Gary Cobb, Brandon Sherwood and Liz Bisignano

Remote: Pauline O'Brien

1. **Call to Order:** Craig Allen called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Stephen Major motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2025. Real Bazin seconded and the motion carried by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).
4. **Communications and Public Comments:**
none
5. **Unfinished Business:** (Discussion/Action)
 - A. Brandon Sherwood: North Westminster Community House (NWCH):
Chairman Allen recognized Mr. Sherwood to speak about a plan to bring the NWCH back to life. Mr. Sherwood announced a comprehensive plan to revitalize the building that would eventually offer such things as affordable event rentals, youth study hours, seasonal celebrations and community led workshops. The plan would call for the ownership of the facility to be through a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, which would allow for the property to be brought onto the tax rolls. Mr. Bazin suggested that the Selectboard hold off on approving anything at the moment, as the article that was tabled at Town Meeting will need to be voted on at the next Town Meeting. Mr. Perry asked the Town Manager to consult with Town Counsel regarding legalities that may need to be addressed, to ensure that any transaction or potential use is done properly.
 - B. Grout Avenue engineering:
Mr. Masure said that engineer Phil Savoy was taking measurements and samples on Friday, April 18th, there's been no update on the engineering that would give the town an idea of how to address the drainage issues on Grout Avenue, near the fire station.
6. **New Business:** (Discussion/Action) –
 - A. House Bill H.503: Advanced Clean Truck timetable:
Chairman Allen wanted to bring this item to the Board's attention. Current statute calls for Vermont to adopt "California standards", also known as "50-state-certified" for vehicle emissions in January of 2026. House Bill H.503 would delay implementation of those standards. Mr. Allen wanted the Selectboard members to be aware of this bill because there are significant delays in the ordering and eventual delivery of commercial vehicles. In particular, trucks for a highway department in many cases are experiencing as much as a two year backlog. Westminster's current vehicle replacement schedule calls for a one-ton replacement in FY 2026.

B. FY 2026 Paving Bids:

Paving Bids were publicly opened on April 14th at Town Hall. Present for the bid opening were the Town Manager, the Road Foreman and Bob Bazin from Bazin Bros. Two bids were received:

Bazin Bros.: \$192,110.80

Springfield Paving: \$209,265.92

Mr. Bazin recused himself from the topic. Mr. Perry motioned to accept the bid from Bazin Bros. Dr. Major seconded and the motion to award the bid to Bazin Bros. passed on a voice vote: 3 in favor (Perry, Major, Allen); none against and one abstention (Bazin)

C. Town Manager Report:

- Met with Planning Commission Chair Lachlan Francis and Matt Bachler from the Windham Region Commission regarding next steps in advancing the new Town Plan.
- Website Improvements: user friendly additions to the home page and new pages that include the Town Charter and financial information.
- Webinars attended: VLCT Open Meeting Law; ICMA – AI Powered Governance for Strategic Planning and NLC – Addressing the Rise of Incivility
- Attended the second annual Municipal Solution Summit on April 2nd and 3rd in Woodstock. Twenty-five municipal managers and administrators attended and crafted many solutions to municipal issues that arise. A sampling of the solutions: Communication: rely less on social media and more on analog delivery (IE-Westminster Gazette); Importance of making new residents feel welcome; Economic Development Committee advantages; Revisit unanswered questions from our Town Meetings

D. Executive Session:

Not needed at this meeting.

7. Other Business:

Mr. Bazin suggested that we keep the one-ton truck that is in better condition than the other when it comes time to trade one in. Mr. Masure agreed with the plan.

8. Executive Session: - None

9. Date of Next Meeting – May 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment: Jason Perry motioned to adjourn at 7:38 p.m., Real Bazin seconded; motion to adjourn approved by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

Clerk

Date