

WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

In person at Westminster, VT Town Hall

Selectboard Present: Craig Allen (chair), Real Bazin (vice chair), Jason Perry (clerk), and Chuck Lawrence; Stephen Major was absent

Staff Present:) Louis Bordeaux (town manager)

Others Present: – Nancy Dalzell, John Ewald and Andrew Bellows

1. **Call to Order:** Craig Allen called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. This meeting was recorded by FACT TV.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** none
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** June 24, 2025 – Real Bazin moved to accept the minutes of June 24, 2025, Jason Perry seconded, motion carried by voice vote, (Allen, Bazin, Perry) Mr. Lawrence abstained due to absence.
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** None
5. **Unfinished Business** (Discussion/Action) –
 - A. North Westminster Community House update:
John Ewald was present for the update. Mr. Ewald sought Selectboard approval for a request for the Fire Marshall to grant permission for a team of volunteers to enter the NWCH for a cleaning project. Subsequent to that, Mr. Ewald would like to have an Open House and Selectboard meeting on site at NWCH. Mr. Bazin interjected that the Fire Marshall is a state position and that would be the point of contact along with Westminster Fire Chief Cole Streeter. The Selectboard agreed by consensus to Mr. Ewald's plan and requested that he return for the next Selectboard meeting on August 5th for a progress report.
 - B. Grout Avenue Engineering – With no contact from Dubois & King, there was no update.
6. **New Business** (Discussion/Action)
 - A. 2025-2026 Tax Rate:
The new tax rate was submitted for Selectboard approval. The rates are:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Homestead</u>	<u>Non-Homestead</u>
Town	\$0.8268	\$0.8268
Fire District #3	\$0.1220	\$0.1220
Local Agreement	\$0.0037	\$0.0037
Education	\$1.7479	\$1.8015
FY26 Tax Rate	\$2.7004	\$2.7540

Mr. Bazin expressed concern regarding delinquent taxes and how those affect the tax rate. The Town Manager commented on a current project for collection of delinquent taxes, that in one week nearly \$100,000 has been collected in back taxes. Chairman Allen asked the Town Manager to provide statistical data in regard to length of delinquencies. Mr. Perry motioned to approve the tax rate as presented. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor (Perry, Lawrence and Allen). One was not in favor (Bazin). The motion passed by majority vote.

B. FY27 Truck Purchase order:

Discussion revolved around the current version of the Highway Equipment replacement schedule. Mr. Bazin felt that more information would be needed, including accurate warranty information on current vehicles. Chairman Allen said that this topic would be clearer if the Road Foreman was present and he would like him at the next meeting. Mr. Perry motioned to table this item. Mr. Bazin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Utility Permitting discussion:

This topic was on the agenda because of the lengthy presentations by Green Mountain Power at recent meetings. After discussing the merits of streamlining the permitting process, the consensus suggestion was for the Town Manager and the Road Foreman to meet with proposed utility projects to ensure the details of the project were in the best interest of the town. After that, permit applications would be presented to the Selectboard for final approval.

D. New Cemetery maintenance:

Mr. Bazin wanted to bring to the Board's attention overgrowth and presence of invasive species at the cemetery. He suggested future involvement of the highway department crew to cut back some of the overgrown trees. He also suggested eliminating the invasives and reseeded afterwards. Chairman Allen wants to revisit this at the next meeting with Chris Harlow of the Cemetery Commission.

E. Town Manager's Report –

- Delinquent Taxes: reminder letters sent; nearly \$100,000 collected
- Secured use of the Sheriff's radar speed trailer
- Special funds usage: surplus can be used in appropriated categories; proposed spending outside of those categories must go to the town for approval.
- On site to confirm progress on the Hearse Shed
- Town Plan: met with Windham Regional's Mike McConnell and Planning Commission Chair Lachlan Francis to establish guidelines for development of the new Town Plan. Mr. Francis would like Boards, Commissions and the Selectboard to participate in upcoming listening sessions.
- Completed SoV ethics training.
- Working on updates to the Policy & Ordinance book; some items will need SB approval at future meetings

F. Executive Session – None needed

7. Other Business:

Mr. Bazin commented that the binder in the chip seal on Westminster Heights Road is being tracked onto other road surfaces. He's concerned about the condition of the chip seal on the road.

8. Executive Session – None

9. Date of Next Meeting – August 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment: Mr. Perry motioned to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. to adjourn, Mr. Bazin seconded, motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Clerk

Date