

WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 16, 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 - Charles (Chuck) Lawrence was absent

Staff Present: Millie Barry (clerk), Lou Bordeaux (town manager), Ben Masure (highway foreman) and Pete Harrison (Campbell/Public Funds)

Others Present: – 1 person from FACTV

1. **Call to Order:** Craig Allen called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
Information to access a future meeting using a remote connection, when available, can be found on the Town of Westminster website or by contacting Westminster Town Hall. This meeting was recorded by FACTV.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** December 9, 2025 – Real Bazin moved to accept the minutes of December 9, 2025, Jason Perry seconded, motion carried by voice vote, (Perry, Allen, Bazin). Stephen Major arrived after acceptance of meeting vote.
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** None
5. **Unfinished Business:** (Discussion/Action) None
6. **New Business:** (Discussion/Action)
 - A. Pete Harrison – Public & Campbell Funds – Mr. Harrison addressed the Board saying he would resign as Trustee before Town Meeting 2026 leaving a vacant two-year term. Mr. Harrison will write a letter of resignation to the board. He is interested in becoming a commissioner.
 - B. FY 2027 Budget – third draft – Information included in packet – Lou Bordeaux highlighted an email from Chip Stearns, NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center). The email emphasized Mr. Stearns, and the auditor’s advice NOT to budget collection of delinquent property taxes. Mr. Bordeaux reminded the board there would be a tax sale in the present fiscal year. Stephen Major motioned to add \$80,000.00 (line 4) under tax revenues, delinquent property taxes and to reduce line 3, delinquent property taxes by \$80,000.00. There was no second to the motion, the motion failed. Real Bazin questioned lack of budgeting for Grout Avenue. He believed as there was nothing budgeted, the problem would not be addressed for two years. Jason Perry suggested saving money for the project and noted another project in North Westminster, in the vicinity of the chiropractic office, in the engineering stage. Mr. Major questioned if the Board would consider an article for the Town Meeting Warning to use surplus funds. In answer to Chip Stearns’ email regarding post office rent and repairs at the post office, Mr. Bordeaux said Kelley Thayer was researching information received by the Manager that the post office agency had completed repairs to the post office building at a cost of about \$5,300.00. They are deducting the amount of repairs from their monthly rental

amount. Stephen Major motioned to add a line item for BDCC (Brattleboro Credit Corporation) in the amount of \$3,000.00 to support economic infrastructure in the area. There was no second to the motion, the motion failed.

Stephen Major motioned to accept the bottom line of the budget as presented. Real Bazin seconded, motion passed by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

Craig Allen suggested discussing delinquent taxes each month noting the current amount was \$908,000.00. Mr. Bordeaux said two collection letters had been sent to taxpayers' delinquent on property taxes. Generally, taxes delinquent from 2019 and before could be included in a tax sale.

Mr. Major recommended an article in the warning, presenting a plan to include suggestions from the Selectboard to taxpayers to spend surplus funds. Mr. Bordeaux restated Mr. Stearns' advice NOT to spend more than 50% or \$271,565,00.

Real Bazin motioned to amend the budget, line 37, Use of Fund Balance, to add \$172,111.37 to the line item. Jason Perry seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major). Mr. Allen confirmed with Mr. Bordeaux he would adjust/recalculate the actual budget numbers.

- C. Conservation Commission reappointment: Jason Perry motioned to reappoint Tatiana Shreiber and Rachael Shaw to four-year terms. Real Bazin seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).
- D. Executive Session (if needed): Jason Perry motioned the Board move to executive session, and invite the Town Manager being that premature knowledge would clearly place the Municipality of the Town Westminster or the public body, a person or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage as outlined in 1 VSA 313, Stephen Major seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

7. Boards, Committees and Commissions:

- Errors and Omissions – Stephen Major motioned to sign the errors and omissions certificate 008053.000 from Thomas Chase to Julie Nauceder 01/29/2025 from \$10,900.00 to \$16,300.00. To change Span #726-231-11142 PID 008054.000 from \$12,100.00 to 0 (zero). The combined parcels have a lower value than the two parcels separately because the inactive parcel will no longer include a 2-acre site. The two parcels should have been combined previously, since both had the same owner. Jason Perry seconded, motion carried by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).
- Cemetery Deed: Jason Perry motioned to approve the sale of one burial plot in the Westminster West Cemetery in Section A-17 bounded on the North by Empty, on the East by Empty, on the South by Stephen Belczak, and on the West by a stone wall to Joel Davis Administrator for Barbara Christie for the sum of \$1,010.00. Real Bazin seconded the motion, passed by voice vote, (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

8. Other Business:

- Stephen Major questioned the possibility of other monthly day/dates for Selectboard meetings. The Board will consider changing the date/days at the Selectboard reorganization meeting after Town Meeting in March 2026.

- New tracks are being installed on the highway excavator by the Town highway crew.
9. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

The Board moved to executive session at 7:35 p.m.

At 8:15 the Board reconvened regular session. No decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:17 p.m.

Clerk

Date

Minutes composed by Millie Barry