

WESTMINSTER SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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) and Lou Bordeaux (town manager), by Zoom, Jackie Atwood and John Ewald (listers)

Others Present: – 1 person from FACTV, 1 unidentified person

1. **Call to Order:** Craig Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 the Westminster Town Hall. This meeting was recorded by FACTV.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** December 16, 2025 – Real Bazin moved to accept the minutes of December 16, 2025 as printed, Stephen Major seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Allen, Bazin, Major).
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** None
5. **Unfinished Business: (Discussion/Action)**
6. **New Business: (Discussion/Action)**
 - A. Davidson Hill Road issues – Town Manager, Lou Bordeaux reported Sheriff department deputy Raymond will make a status report to the manager 1/21/2026. Jason Perry noted several years ago, the Town spent a lot of money to clean up a lot, and dispose of an abandoned mobile home on Davidson Hill. He suggested the Board/Town Manager be more aggressive to understand the situation.
 - B. Board of Listers Resignation: Information included in Board packet. Stephen Major read a letter by Rachael Cohen and moved to accept Ms. Cohen’s resignation as a Westminster Lister effective 12/31/2025, Jason Perry seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major). The Board noted Ms. Cohen’s position was an elected position.
 - C. Board of Listers discussion/plan: Mr. Allen noted he requested Stacey Bradley, (NEMRC assessor) newly assigned to Westminster to complete an audit of the listers office to include things currently being done, not being done and upcoming lister items. This report, to date has not been made. When the report is received, Mr. Allen will share the the information. John Ewald questioned why the listers could not hire a lister assistant. Mr. Allen stated the listers are required to have a meeting. The results of the meeting, that would include both listers, would be submitted to the Town Manager/Selectboard to determine if the funds for an assistant were available. Mr. Ewald believed the voters approved the funds for a lister assistant at the 2025 Town Meeting and questioned the reasoning a lister meeting was required to hire a lister assistant. Jackie Atwood stated her agreement, a lister clerk was included in the lister budget in 2025 without the listers input. She continued, she would not be available to work as a lister until February and until then it would be helpful to have a lister clerk. Mr. Major stated it was

reasonable when hiring a Town employee, that hiring be done in a formal way and be approved by the Selectboard, the listers, and to be sure person had a resume and recommendations suitable for doing the job. Also, that the funds were available in the budget. Mr. Allen stated the entire Selectboard would decide about the availability of funds and recommended lister clerk. Jason Perry noted the listers needed to be in office to complete the work. He continued, the lister that spent the most time in the office working became so frustrated with the office/situation, she resigned. Also, in his research for a zoning permit, a lister file contained inaccurate information. Ms. Atwood stated she did not believe the listers were behind in their work and she would be available to hear grievances. Stephen Major motioned to ask the listers to meet to complete a job description and recommend a lister clerk for the Selectboard to approve. Jason Perry seconded, motioned carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major). The Selectboard will request legal counsel opinion about hiring a lister assistant.

- D. Campbell Fund/Public Funds trustee resignation: Information included in the packet. Stephen Major read a letter from Pete Harrison. Jason Perry motioned to accept Pete Harrison's resignation as Trustee of Public and Campbell Funds effective February 28, 2026, Real Bazin seconded. Motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).
- E. Delinquent Tax review: Information included in packet. Mr. Allen noted the current balance of \$816,000.00 in delinquent taxes. Mr. Bordeaux said a tax sale would be held in the spring. Two letters had been sent requesting payment, taxpayers in a payment plan and any tax delinquency less than two years old would not be included in a tax sale.
- F. 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, Real Bazin seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

7. Boards, Committees and Commissions: None

- 8. **Other Business:** Stephen Major suggested a Town Meeting article for taxpayers to know how the Selectboard recommended spending surplus funds. Mr. Bordeaux confirmed the Board had allocated a certain amount in the budget to be returned to taxpayers. The Board agreed there would be voter handout with recommendations by the Board for surplus spending. Stephen Major motioned to accept the warning of the 2026 Annual meeting, Real Bazin seconded, motion carried by voice vote (Perry, Bazin, Allen, Major).

In another matter: The Board questioned the content of an email by Westminster Treasurer, Pauline Blake and requested the email be clarified.

In another matter: Mr. Bordeaux confirmed that a final draft for the Grout Avenue engineering, due December 31, 2025, has not been received.

- 9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

The Board moved to Executive session at 7:17 p.m.

The Board exited Executive session at 8:00pm; no decisions were made. Jason Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. Real Bazin seconded, meeting adjourned.

Clerk

Minutes composed by Millie Barry

Date

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