

WESTFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING

Minutes

March 21st, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Westfield Town Office, 38 School Street

Meeting Recordings Available to View at <https://www.youtube.com/@TownofWestfieldVT>

Town Officials Present: Jacques Couture, Selectboard Chair; Richard Degre, Selectboard; Dennis Vincent, Selectboard; LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk; Lisa Deslandes, Treasurer; Niki Dunn, Selectboard Clerk

Others Present: Doug Wells, BGS – MERP (Partial Attendance)

1. **Call Meeting to Order – Jacques Couture, Chair:** Jacques brought the meeting to order at 12:57pm.
2. **Public Comment – 5 Minutes:** None
3. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** 8a. Added adjusting prices for trash and bulky items at recycling.
4. **Discuss MERP Grant Agreement Changes – Doug Wells MERP:** If the changes get approved the town will receive an amended scope of work for the grant agreement. Doug noted that if the budget gets tight, they would like things to be done in priority order, which would move the changes being asked for to the bottom of the list.
 - a. **Town Office – Windows:** The window seals in all the windows at the town office are broken and let in cold air in the winter and steam up in the summer. The current grant agreement allows for heat pumps and radiant heat flooring which already exist in the building, so the money would be moved from these items to be used towards the windows. Doug noted that some people are integrating heat pumps into the radiant heat flooring which may be why it was included in the agreement. Niki will send the quote for the windows to Doug Wells.
 - b. **Community Center- 2 Exterior Doors:** Doug looked at the doors during his site visit.
 - c. **Library – ADA Compliant Bathroom and ADA Compliant Exterior Door:** The bathroom needs to be larger to become ADA compliant and the door at the ramp opens the wrong way.
 - d. **Discuss Possible Solar Options for Town Garage:** Jacques noted that all the solar work will be done at the Recycling Center/ Town Garage location. Doug noted that anything over 15kwh is difficult to permit for ground mount solar. Roof mount is easier to permit. The grant agreement is slated for 28kwh. Jacques noted that there is an acre of land at the garage that they could put tracking panels on. LaDonna questioned if the solar panels need to be purchased or if they can be leased, and if electric company buy-ins are allowed. Doug noted that initially the buy ins were a definite no, but there are some things they are allowing now. One example is a community solar system that is on town property. The way the bill was written made the intent to be for the municipality to purchase the solar panels. There were questions about the lifespan of the panels and how to dispose of them. Doug noted that commercial systems are the only panels he's seen being disposed of, and they are modules from the 80s. He noted that there have been recalls and bad production runs, but the cells last. He feels that solar is very reliable and long lasting. Jacques questioned if the panels would be considered hazardous waste when they need to be disposed of. Doug noted only a certain type would be considered

hazardous. Jacques questioned where to go to find a list of solar installers. Doug noted that Efficiency Vermont has a partner program list on their website and Renewable Energy Vermont (revermont.org) has information on their website also on solar installers. Doug recommends having a data component included with the solar panel setup so we can monitor the output and if anything is wrong with the system. Doug noted to also ask the installer if a group net meter for solar would work for one building and would be able to integrate the streetlights as well.

Meeting was paused at 1:29pm, so Doug, the Selectboard and Lisa could do site visits at the buildings.

Meeting resumed at 2:48pm.

5. Update on Sign at Town Garage/ Recycling Center:

- a. **Schedule Concrete Work:** Getting the concrete pad poured for the sign needs to be scheduled with Tracey Degre. Richard spoke to him and told him he would like it to be done as soon as possible. Lisa noted that once that's done, we need to get the rest of the work scheduled with D&D Electric.

6. **Community Center – Lisa Deslandes:** Lisa updated the Selectboard on the process she has made on cleaning. She is waiting to deep clean the upstairs until after the windows are replaced. Lisa wondered how deep of a clean to do in the kitchen area. LaDonna noted that the hood in the kitchen needs to be inspected. The Selectboard is okay with paying the extra hours for Lisa to do more of the deep cleaning. Lisa also explained that the landscaping for the outdoor area of the Community Center needs to be done so it could be easily maintained over the years. She noted that putting rocks down instead of mulch may keep the weeds from coming through and would allow it to be maintained easier. Flowers and shrubs could still be planted but would be less costly to keep up with than replacing mulch. Whichever way the board decides to go the old dirt and mulch would need to be removed and the ground prepped. Jacques noted that it should be done before the middle of April. Lisa also noted that the bathroom floor should be replaced. Dennis explained that Tony LeMay should be giving a quote for that. The upstairs bathroom floor should be okay for now as it's not used as much. Dennis noted that going with tile flooring will help keep the floor last longer with all the salt that is tracked in over the winter. Lisa also noted the bathroom faucet could be replaced and the handrail is rusty and could also be replaced.

7. **Executive Session (Anticipated):** Dennis motioned to go into executive session at 3:10pm, for personnel reasons, Richard seconded. Motion passed. Exited executive session at 3:22pm. No action taken.

8. Other Business:

- a. **Increase Prices for Trash and Bulky Items at Recycling:** Mattresses and boxsprings take up a lot of room in the dumpster and prices need to increase to cover this. All prices for bulky items were increased. New prices will be posted on the website and at the Recycling Center. New prices are effective April 1st.

9. **Adjourn:** Dennis motioned to adjourn at 3:24pm, Richard seconded. Motion passed.

Westfield Selectboard Approval Date: _____ **with** _____ **change(s)**

X

Jacques Couture
Selectboard Chair

X

Richard Deqre
Selectboard

X

Dennis Vincent
Selectboard

