

WESTFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING

Minutes

November 14th, 2025 @ 12:30 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; Niki Dunn, Selectboard Clerk; Lisa Deslandes, Treasurer; Eric Kennison, Road Commissioner (Partial Attendance)

Others Present:

1. **Call Meeting to Order – Jacques Couture, Chair:** Jacques called the meeting to order at 12:31PM.
1. **Public Comment – 5 Minutes:** None
2. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Presentation on Current Benefits Packages Available to Employees – Lisa Deslandes, Treasurer:** Currently the benefits packages that the two town employees take is the MVP Platinum plan. The current package went up around \$36 per month for the family package and \$13 per month for the single package. Vermont Municipal Employee Retirement System (VMERS) did increase to 7.25% for the employer match from 7% in 2025. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2026 is 2.8%. Lisa also gave the Selectboard information on what surrounding towns pay their employees. The dental for the single plan went up \$2 per month. She has not received new numbers for the vision plan yet. Most of the town employees in the other towns take single or couple plans as they don't currently need family plans. Currently LaDonna is covered 100% by the town for insurance for a single plan, and Eric's insurance is covered at 60% by the town and 40% by the employee for the family plan. Lisa noted that the percentage of coverage by the town should be the same for each employee. Richard questioned offering only the single plan for employee insurance. Lisa also noted that at a recent training she learned that the Selectboard members should be writing their hours down for all town work to make sure that their yearly stipend works out to at least minimum wage.
4. **Executive Session (Proposed):**
 - a. **Labor Relations Agreements with Employees:**

Dennis motioned to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 12:54PM, Richard seconded. Motion passed.
Exited executive session to discuss the Highway Budget.
Dennis motioned to re-enter executive session at 2:26PM to continue discussing labor relations with employees, Richard seconded. Motion passed.
Exited executive session at 3:37PM, no action taken.
5. **Other Business:**
 - a. **Discussion of Highway Budget:** Some work was done on the highway budget as Eric may not be able to attend the scheduled meeting next week. Road Maintenance was looked at. Eric felt that he has around six culverts that need to be replaced next year, which will be roughly \$6,000. Due to how dry the roads were this year almost double the amount of chloride was used. If the Class 4 Highway and Legal Trail Ordinance passes, then there will be a need for signs to be put up on those roads next year. Eric noted some roads that need to be changed in classification from Class 3 to Class 4 to comply with passable standards for the NVDA segment inventory. Eric would like an increase of 3% for the hired equipment line. He would like the line for chloride to increase to \$10,000 for 2026. It was determined that road signs can stay at \$5,000 for the year. The salt contract

for the current year has not come in yet, so the number is set at \$7,500 for now. Gravel and sand can stay at \$56,000 for now. For grader expenses, tires were included in the current year's budget; it could come down a little bit for next year. Lisa will add a separate line item for grader fuel which will give a better idea of what grader expenses should be. Lisa calculated the grader fuel for the year, and it was determined to put grader expenses at \$5,000 and put grader fuel at \$2,000. It was discussed to add a line back in for paving, which was removed last year to try to keep the budget down. It was previously set at \$40,000.

6. Adjourn: Dennis motioned to adjourn at 3:39PM, Richard seconded. Motion passed.

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

X

Jacques Couture
Selectboard Chair

X

Richard Degre
Selectboard

X

Dennis Vincent
Selectboard