

WESTFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING

Minutes

January 20th, 2026 – 4:30 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 (Via Zoom); Richard Degre, Selectboard; LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk; Niki Dunn, Selectboard Clerk

Others Present: Jan Degre

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1. **Call Meeting to Order – Jacques Couture, Chair:** Jacques Couture brought the meeting to order at 4:28PM.
 2. **Public Comment – 5 Minutes:** None
 3. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda:** LaDonna Dunn added Discussing the Red Cross appropriation under number 4, Lisa Deslandes added discussing the heat pumps at the library to 7a.
 4. **Discuss/Approve 2026 General Budget:** Jacques questioned how the deficit shows on the highway budget. Lisa explained that it needs to be raised in addition to the property taxes that are being raised to cover this year's budget.

Jacques asked for clarification on the treasurer salary line-item increase and Lisa explained that she is working more hours each week now. He also questioned if the assistant treasurer was still Niki Dunn, and Lisa noted that it was.

Richard Degre felt the lister budget could come down a bit, however it was noted that they will need more hours this year to do the statistical reappraisal.

Richard Degre motioned to approve the general fund budget for 2026, which includes a total budget amount of \$484,085.59 with \$170,385.59 to be raised by non-tax revenues and \$313,700 to be raised by municipal taxes, Dennis Vincent seconded. Motion passed.

Richard noted on the highway budget that he was looking at the hired equipment increase and possibly keeping that line-item level funded, since Eric's payroll line was increased with the summer hours going up from 24 hours a week to 40 hours a week. Jacques felt that it is hard to go backwards now that they approved the budget last week.

Lisa will speak with NEMRC to clarify the highway budget numbers as the deficit does not seem to be calculating correctly in the budget.

It was discussed to remove the \$40,000 paving line-item again to bring the highway budget down more.

It was discussed to remove the \$2,500 for the signs and the \$1,000 for the guard rails.

Jacques discussed asking the state about how they use sand/salt on the roads to try to trim down on the amount of sand the town uses during the winter. It would also cut down on the spring cleanup.

With those items removed from the highway budget it brings the total needed for the budget to \$495,678.02. Dennis Vincent motioned to approve the amended highway budget, with a total of \$495,678.02, with \$82,400 being raised by non-tax revenues and \$413,278.02 needing to be raised by taxes, Richard Degre seconded. Motion passed. *

- a. **Red Cross Appropriation:** LaDonna explained that there has been no appropriation request sent in yet from the Red Cross. They have been having staff issues with many people out on maternity leave. This would typically exclude them from being on the warning, however LaDonna noted that it is most likely going to lead to someone asking for it to be on the appropriation list which will result in changing the budget numbers during town meeting. The Selectboard agreed to leave the request on the warning at the same amount as they requested last year.

5. **Discuss/Approve 2026 Town Meeting Warning:** Cannot be approved at this time.

6. **Executive Session (if needed):** Not needed.

7. **Other Business:**

a. **Library Heat Pumps:** Jacques felt that there is no jurisdiction for the CAP assessors to determine whether the heat pumps can be installed at the library. Richard noted that the installation has already begun and all that will be showing in the library is the units themselves, no wiring. The request by the assessors for the heat pumps to be hidden and not attached to the walls is not able to be accommodated. Jacques noted that they are requesting humidity to be controlled and the heat pumps will do that. Jacques felt that these heat pumps will be better than what was previously there and will handle the humidity better than having nothing in place. The heat pumps are being installed via the MERP grant and that already passed historical review. Richard noted that the Vermont room needs insulation blown in and Jeff Dunn can do this when he increases the insulation in the rest of the building.

8. **Adjourn:** Richard Degre motioned to adjourn at 5:40PM, Dennis Vincent seconded. Motion passed.

*Following this meeting these numbers were revised. The highway budget will be approved at the next budget meeting to be held on January 27th, 2026 at 4:30PM

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

X

Jacques Couture
Selectboard Chair

X

Richard Degre
Selectboard

X

Dennis Vincent
Selectboard