

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

Present: Pat Harvey, Chad Richardson, and Mike Teetsel

Guests Present: Julie Smith, Nancy Woolley, Orca Media, Terry Severy, John Champion, Vic Ribaudo, Asia Kennett, and Drew Hudson

Guests Present on Microsoft Teams: Orca, Martha Slater, Brenda Down, Faye Severy, Rob Gardner, and Paula Dougherty

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pat confirmed the meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Pat moved to approve December 22, 2025, meeting minutes. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved

Library Updates: Mike shared that a Library Trustee will attend the second selectboard meeting of each month.

Highway Updates: John Champion reported difficulty obtaining salt orders, noting he has received only part of what was ordered and believes there may be a shortage. He also reported the truck ordered from Stone CDJR has been built but has not yet shipped.

Utility Operator Updates: Terry Severy reported that Site 4 experienced issues in the previous week requiring 32,000 gallons of effluent to be pumped. The cause is still undetermined. BP Wastewater Services from Burlington assisted in troubleshooting, and the issue may be related to controls. Terry plans to replace the second of the two pumps in the spring.

VHI Management Updates: Drew Hudson discussed the solar project for the HUB building. Five bids were received, and Catamount Solar of Randolph was selected. He explained that the roof will need to be replaced as part of Phase 1 of the renovation before the 200-kW solar project can be installed on the south-facing north side of the building. Drew noted that the town qualifies favorable tax incentives that can be reimbursed by the state in a grant-like format since the town does not pay taxes.

Vic Ribaudo shared that CV Oil referred to the Allied Alliance of Rutland to service the boiler in the building. Allied completed an assessment and is preparing a report with recommendations. Coordination will occur with Brian Boucher, who is managing the control work.

Asia Kennett shared that she has established a calendar of events including art classes and encouraged residents to participate. She noted that pop-up mini markets are planned, including one in conjunction with Winter Fest. She also shared that the Teen Center is progressing and programming is currently being developed.

Selectboard Updates: Pat reported discussions with Jeff Gephart and Mike Teetsel regarding the MERP Grant application and identifying a better approach for applying awarded funds toward renovations at the Town Office Building. The Selectboard is reviewing next steps.

Pat shared that the Selectboard's opinion regarding the cell tower was uploaded to the PUC. Both the Selectboard and Planning Commission have submitted Notices of Intervention and will continue to monitor activity.

Pat noted that Mike attended a recent Library Trustees meeting to discuss exterior building issues. Mike reported that the library is applying for a grant which they are well qualified and are hopeful for funding.

Pat shared the Town has engaged a new auditing firm for this year. The firm is currently working on the Town's financials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Due to the time needed to become familiar with the Town books. The audit will not be completed in time for printing the Town Report. A letter will be included in the report explaining the status of the audit.

Pat discussed a petition related to the cell tower that was directed to the Selectboard and asked to be uploaded to the PUC to meet the deadline for comments. The attorney assigned to the town regarding the Cell Tower advised there will be an opportunity to submit the petition once it is formally verified. If the PUC opens, that would be an appropriate time for submission.

Sugar Mamas LLC Second Class Liquor License renewal: Pat moved to approve the license renewal. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Animal Abuse Case, Policy and Resolution: Pat reported receiving letters addressed to the Selectboard regarding an animal abuse case involving a dog on Kennedy Drive. Further action will be taken, and Fish and Wildlife is scheduled to visit the owners. Julie Smith asked whether the animal control policy could be updated and whether additional training could be provided to allow animal control officers to remove dogs in the future. Pat stated that the outcome of this case will determine whether additional training is needed. She also noted the multiple complaints were received regarding excessive barking.

Certificate of Highway Mileage Report Due February 20: Pat explained this annual report determines state road maintenance funding. She reviewed the current mileage totals:

- Class 2 Roads: 12.24 miles
- Class 3 Roads: 39.13 miles
- Class 4 Roads: 7.47 miles
- Legal Trails: 6.65 miles

Pat moved to approve the mileage as presented. Mike seconded. All were in favor. Motion approved. The board signed the certificate.

Pat moved to adjourn the meeting. Chad seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Smith