

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Present: Pat Harvey, Mike Teetsel, Mary Fratini

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Terry Severy, John Champion, Nancy Woolley, Vic Ribaud, Kelly Frye

Guests on Teams: Asia Labejsza-Kennett

Pat Harvey called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Pat moved to accept the Selectboard meeting minutes from March 23, 2026. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

UPDATES

Highway Updates: Dana Spalding resigned, so the town will be looking for another crew member. John Champion is continuing to check on culverts and is in contact with the sweeping contractor; sweeping might be a longer day this year because of the extra use of sand. Recommended that the Selectboard start thinking about replacing the international dump truck next and get started on that this year.

Utilities Updates: Terry Severy recommended changing out the other water pump this summer and doing some additional control work, but will wait and do all the work at one time. Kristen LaPell has some information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for developing an ordinance for addressing delinquent accounts in the future.

VHI Management Updates: Asia Labejsza-Kennett said the building is transitioning smoothly from winter into spring activities, and beginning planning for summer camp. They've had lots of people in and out of the building, including school kids volunteering to work on the gardens around the building, prepping for a spring concert in May, the White River Valley Players are rehearsing for the spring musical May 8-10, and there are two to three art classes per month.

Selectboard Updates

The Selectboard had received a letter from the fire department asking for advice and responded that the fire department works independently from the Selectboard, with their own internal governance, so the Selectboard would not be getting involved in that matter.

Pat said she was continue to work to secure the mowing of the riverside path; the mowing will be paid out of town funds. She asked that dog walkers be sure to clean up after themselves, noting that if the path is not cared for by the users, the town will not maintain the mowing. She asked that everyone respect the path and treat it as part of the town property.

The Selectboard had received a complaint from a renter on a private property at the south end of the village complaining about excessive rodents. That complaint has been passed onto the health officer, John White.

The Selectboard had received a complaint about the condition of the intersection of Church Hill and Fisk Roads; that location is beyond the town line, so the individual will follow up with the town of Hancock.

Mary Fratini said that she would be participating in the Housing Committee on behalf of the Selectboard.

NEW BUSINESS

Dog Fine: Kelly Frye requested that the Selectboard remove the fine she had received for her dog, noting that she had only recently returned after dealing with medical issues that caused mobility limitations. Pat noted that the Selectboard had received several reports from neighbors as well as the animal control officer, Jeff Brown, prior to levying the fine, as far back as January. She also noted that the fine is levied on the property or residence, and not Kelly as an individual. However, given the extenuating circumstances, the Selectboard agreed to extend the due date of the fine by two weeks.

Park use application – library: The Rochester Town Library had submitted an application for use of the gazebo for story hour during the Farmers’ Markets. The Selectboard moved the application forward to the next meeting with a request that someone from the library attend the meeting to discuss the application.

Water and Sewer Rate increases: Pat read the notice of water and sewer rate increases, which will take effect on July 1, 2026 and be reflected in the September billing statements. The base rate for water will increase from \$60 to \$65 per quarter; the usage rate for water will increase from 0.005 cents/gallon to 0.006 cents/gallon. The base rate for sewer will increase from \$80 to \$85/quarter; the usage rate for sewer will increase from 0.009 cents/gallon to 0.01 cents/gallon. Pat noted that the sewer rates are higher because the sewer systems in place are more sophisticated and expensive to upgrade; the largest water expense for the town is testing and treatment. She said these new rates are still conservative in terms covering the costs of maintaining those systems and that the town is hoping to save up for some substantial improvements in the future. Terry Severy noted that these rates have not increased for the past two years, and prior to that had not been raised in 12 years.

New Driveway Permit: The Selectboard approved a new driveway permit for Jason Lewis and Anjanette Lemak applied for a new driveway permit at 360 Great Hawk Road, with the condition that it have an 18” culvert because it is on a sloping road.

Licenses for Village Grocery: The Selectboard approved a second class liquor license, tobacco license, and tobacco substitution endorsement license for the Village Grocery and Liquor.

Delinquent water/sewer account: There is a village landowner in significant arrears for their water and sewer accounts; they have contact the town to set up a payment plan and requested leniency with the interest. Pat and Kristen will work with them to come up with a proposed payment plan, and withhold a decision on interest until that plan is in place and they have demonstrated compliance with it.

Additional library card catalog drawers for Town Office: The Town Office is in need of additional or new card catalog drawers for their land records. Mary Fratini said she will help with this project.

Public Comment: Nancy Woolley requested permission to schedule Cody McCullough to remove the three maple trees at the east end of the park that are in danger of coming down. She noted that the town had received an anonymous donation for care of the trees in the park and that money is being held by the Trustees. The Selectboard approved her request.

Minutes prepared by Mary Fratini