

Selectboard Minutes
April 14, 2025

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Greg Meulemans and Christina Robinson

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Gary Laroche, Megan Ooms and Sean James

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Late additions

#6 update on Depot Street Bridge includes presentation

2. Minutes

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from March 24th, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

3. VTRANS presentation on Depot Street Bridge

Alternatives Presentation Meeting:

This is the Depot Street Bridge, which is a single lane bridge. They are in the early stages of the project before design. The bridge was built in 1926 which means it is in the National Register of Historic Places.

Inspection Findings: Most were rated a 6 (satisfactory) and it will be inspected again in October 2025.

There is an updated purpose and need. The US Army Corps of Engineers needs access to the dam. The Department of Forest also needs access. Another change is the time of year and water work restrictions. June 1-October 1 is when work can be done in the water.

Alternative 5: Replace bridge with new steel girder bridge.

Alternative 6: Replace bridge with new truss bridge. There is more cost with this for cleaning and painting the structure.

For both alternatives, the truss would need to be removed. It needs to be moved, and the financial responsibility would be on the town. The other option is to destroy the current bridge. They are recommending alternative 6, it is the less expensive option.

Construction would start in 2027.

Total cost: \$7,560,000

Town cost: \$153,200

The costs are 10% of the preliminary engineering and 10% of right-of-way costs. Any maintenance is 100% on the town as it is anywhere in the state.

Jessica asked about when we would be liable to pay for the town portion. Gary said once we have an agreement, the town would be billed on a monthly basis. The town will not be billed all up front, it will be gradual over the next three years.

The refurbished bridge that the town had decided on is no longer an option because it does not meet the needs.

This will be on the agenda for the May 12, 2025 meeting.

4. Approve signer for financing grant paperwork

When projects are done, we sign agreements. Currently, Terri Garland is the signer for the grant. Jessica made a motion to make Sara Wiswall (Treasurer) and Jessica Pollack (Selectboard Chair) be approved to sign paperwork requiring a signature for state financing costs, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

5. Tax Sale

The tax sale went well, everyone paid or set up a payment plan beforehand, so the tax sale was canceled.

6. Mowing Bids:

There were no bids for roadside mowing.

Austin Meeks of Meeks Maintenance

Cemetery mowing with ballfield was itemized but there was no total.

Jessica made a motion to accept the one bid we did receive with the total amount being presented at the next meeting, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

7. Discussion on new flagpole proposals

Andy has a couple of estimates.

SB Signs (Williston, VT) - 25-foot pole commercial, installed with new footing \$5,128.

Patriot Flags (Swansey, NH) commercial flagpole with exterior rope, flag, and install \$1975+\$150
With an interior robe- \$2300

Andy recommends the second one.

Everyone agreed to getting a flagpole from Patriot Flags.

9. Overweight permits

Greg made a motion to accept the overweight permits for New England Quality Service, Inc., Dead River Company and Cota & Cota Inc., seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

10. Liquor Licenses

Jessica made a motion to approve the second-class license for Northern Sun Mercantile, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the first-class license for Honey Pie, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the exterior consumption for Honey Pie restaurant, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

11. Time sheets

Jessica made a motion to approve the time sheets, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

12. Pay Orders

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

13. Public concerns

Paul had a complaint about kids going into the Tukesbury house. The board recommended calling the sheriff's department.

Paul asked when the street sweeper will be here. It is within the month, but we do not have an exact date.

Discussion on feather signs, how they were in the ordinance as banned but then it was changed and feather signs were allowed. They will look at the ordinance again and start the process of cleaning up the sign ordinance.

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Andy.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall