

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2025
DRAFT Minutes**

Present: Pat Haller
Julia Andrews
Casey Mathieu
Nick Nichols

Greg Barrows
Holly Delisle
Callie Hamdy
Sean Cushing

Guests: See page 3.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Added DRB Appointment to Discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fidium was running lines for a fiber network in Westford. **Barb Peck** had talked to Fidium and was told they were not going to cover her property, that there is no infrastructure along 128 by her house and the other houses there. She is requesting somebody help her and the houses that are being left out to try and get something to happen. **J. Andrews** explained she is on the Chittenden County Communications Union District (CCCUD) as the Westford representative. CCCUD is the body that has funded the VCBF Fidium being strung to people in Westford. She will consult with the CCCUD chair tomorrow to understand what the best path forward is. There are a couple of different ways.

MINUTES

P. Haller motioned to approve July 24, 2025, minutes as amended. **N. Nichols** Seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

ROAD SCHEDULE

S. Cushing, Road Foreman, was not present. **C. Mathieu** went over the Road Schedule from July 25, 2025, to August 14, 2025.

FY'25 HIGHWAY BUDGET STATUS REPORT

G. Barrows, Treasurer, was present and went over the FY'25 Budget Status Report.

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

This was an annual item from the assessors to correct errors and omissions from the Grand List. **J. Andrews** motioned to approve the Grand List Errors & Omissions. **N. Nichols** Seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TIMELINE

C. Mathieu gave a quick update on the timeline for the new town administrator. They made a motion for Tommy to join the team. They are still working with the hiring agency and are looking at a start date of 8/25.

SCHOOL ADVOCACY PUBLIC FORUM

P. Haller wanted to talk about scheduling and the format of the School Advocacy Public Forum. They had talked at the last meeting about trying to meet sometime in the first two weeks of September. The board discussed having the meeting on September 11th in lieu of having a normal Selectboard meeting. **J. Andrews** suggested warning the meeting so that the first 30 minutes of the meeting is general quick business such as approving warrants and

accounts payable and then having the forum be the rest of the meeting. The board finalized the 11th with an alternate date of the 17th or 18th of September.

P. Haller discussed the purpose of the meeting, which is to gain understanding from Westford residents. The board should inform them on what Act 73 is, note that it is a separate issue to the middle school consolidation, and ask whether or not the residents want to leave the redistricting to the task force, to choose which schools to partner with in a larger district, or do we want to suggest/recommend to align with a district other than potentially Essex. If that were the case, which districts would we want to align with? Secondly, do we want to join the Rural School Community Alliance (RSCA)? Who is presenting and how will that discussion be shaped? **N. Nichols** did not think we needed to use the forum to decide on joining the RSCA. **J. Andrews** agreed, in her view whether we are part of the alliance or not, it is not going to change our trajectory as a community. If we join RSCA, we will not be advocating any specific position for Westford, they advocate for their members as a whole.

Kirsten Tyler was present. She added that a benefit of joining the RSCA is that Westford would have access to consultation services, advice, and any questions they have about Act 73 could be answered by skilled long-term educators. **P. Haller** wondered if we joined, could we invite one of them to present what Act 73 is? **K. Tyler** thought that it would be okay to ask, but many of the leadership positions are from Addison County so it would be harder for them to join physically. **P. Haller** Motioned that Westford join the RSCA. **N. Nichols** seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

N. Nichols asked Kirsten if she had any information on the expectations of the point person we would appoint to the RSCA. **J. Andrews** added that she thinks Kirsten has shown herself in several community leadership roles to be a measured person who is aware she might have a specific bias, and, in that context, she would be representing the whole community. The board asked Kirsten if they were to make a nomination would she be willing to serve. She was. **N. Nichols** motioned to nominate Kirsten Tyler to be the Westford representative of the RSCA. **C. Mathieu** seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

For the meeting, **P. Haller** thought that they should describe Act 73 in a basic, easy to understand way. There would be no PowerPoint presentation. **Lee McClenny**, Moderator, was present. Does the board foresee a role in the meeting for the School Board representatives? Pat noted they wanted to come, but Julia disagreed. EWSD demands its members stay in step with what the board's direction is and she does not think they would be able to speak from any other perspective, but they are members of the community, and they can come and speak. **L. McClenny**, and **Callie Hamdy**, Town Clerk, discussed the logistics of the meeting with the board.

P. Haller noted they should have childcare available, they did that during the March Town Meeting, for which his own children volunteered. They will need additional volunteers for that during the meeting. The board suggested the meeting begin at 6:15pm, 7:00pm for the forum.

DRB APPOINTMENT

The DRB was recommending Max Tyler for appointment to the DRB. Max was already the DRB alternate. **P. Haller** motioned to appoint Max Tyler to the DRB and Dennis Angiono as the alternate. **C. Mathieu** seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

REVIEW FY'25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS REPORT

G. Barrows, Treasurer, was present and went over the FY'25 General Fund Budget Status Report.

REVIEW AND APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

G. Barrows, Treasurer, was present and went over the Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants.

CORRESPONDENCE

The board received emails regarding the Rural Schools Community Alliance, email from Carol Winfield on Beaver Deceivers, cross culvert emails, Town Administrator emails, and emails regarding the new fencing on the Common. They also acknowledged the Rec Coordinator email.

COMMUNICATION

There was no communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:48 p.m. Pat motioned to move to find that premature public knowledge of matters relating to personnel would place the town at a significant disadvantage. Julia seconded; Motion passed 4-0.

Pat motioned to enter executive session and invited Maria to attend. Julia seconded; Motion passed 4-0.

Selectboard exited executive session at 8:05 p.m. No action taken.

Julia motioned to approve the employment contract between Thomas O'Connor and the Town of Westford. Casey seconded; Motion passed 4-0.

Pat motioned to approve Casey to sign any document to finalize employment of the new Town Administrator. Nick seconded; Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Mathieu
Selectboard Chair

Callie Hamdy
Minute Clerk

GUEST LIST

Dave Gauthier
Lee McClenny
Max Tyler
Kim Guidry
Ira Allen
Ben Bornstein

Barb Peck
Lori Johnson
Harmony Cism
Carol Winfield
Kirsten Tyler
Wendy Doane