

Waterford Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Davies Library

In Attendance: Sue Hayes, Ron Gray, Tim Yarrow, Wade Cochran, and Will Jones. Attendance list attached.

Ron Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Modifications to Agenda

- Add Executive Session
- Add Fleming Discussion

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Sue Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 meeting. Tim Yarrow seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Slate Ledge Road

- Ron Gray and Road Foreman Jim Hayes inspected the washout. They discovered that not all culverts had been removed, but that they were plugged.
- Mike O'Hara and Paul Butkiewicz attended the meeting to speak on behalf of their snowmobile club, the Waterford Ridge Runners. Slate Ledge Road is a vital trail connection for their club. The Waterford Ridge Runners offered to repair the washout area. They are a state program through VAST. Their routine trail maintenance and activities have insurance, including liability insurance, so the town would not incur any risk. They intend to clear out some ditches and use the material for filling in the chasm. They plan to build a water bar to avoid future damage and will work with Jim to ensure compliance with town standards.
- Tim Yarrow asked for confirmation that the damage could not be made worse if their repairs don't go as planned. Co-Road Commissioner Will Jones confirmed the chasm cannot fall any deeper and they are not risking further damages.
- Will Jones reported on his findings from his cost analysis into potential actions to deal with the trash being left on Slate Ledge Road. To have a gate installed would cost about \$1,100 in total, and two trail cams would cost about \$600 in total, including all accessories and subscriptions.
- There was concern that trail cams would become a target and be disabled or destroyed. Tim Doyon shared that he has been using trail cams on his property for similar purposes

for four years without any damage thus far. He secured them 15'-18' high in the trees and added camouflage.

- Lyn Fleming expressed concern over the legality of gating off a public road. Tim Yarrow agreed with her. Will Jones added that he spoke with VLCT who advised against the gate, but said it is not explicitly illegal. Wade Cochran described similar issues with trash being dumped on Hudson Road, and he does not believe a gate is the answer. Paul Butkiewicz shared examples of places along the snowmobile trail that have tried to gate off the area in the summer and did not succeed in reducing trash or loitering. Tim Doyon installed a gate for similar purposes and did see positive results.
- Sue Hayes found \$2300 in the Selectboard Budget that could be used to purchase whatever option they chose for Slate Ledge Road, so the cost will not negatively affect the budget.
- Will Jones volunteered to find out if a sign to warn about recording will need to be posted. The sign may act as a deterrent of its own. Tim Yarrow suggested consulting the Town Attorney.
- Will Jones moved to allocate \$600 out of the Selectboard Wages budget line item toward the purchase of two trail cameras and all associated accessories and subscriptions. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- Sue Hayes moved to accept all help offered by the Waterford Ridge Runners. Wade Cochran seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Doyon Field Drive

- Will Jones drew a map of the site with the issue in question and shared it with other Board members. He gave a brief recount of the context of Tim Doyon's request. When Tim Doyon purchased the land 30 years ago, it did not have a culvert connecting the ditch for continual water flow. Around 2010, the previous Road Foreman dug a ditch through Doyon's property without his permission. The resulting water path led to undue erosion of his access road and the base of his gate during recent flooding. There are photos to compare before and after the incident. Mr. Doyon believes the town is liable for repairs because the ditching on his property was done outside the town's right-of-way without authorization.
- Road Foreman Jim Hayes confirmed his team will be installing a culvert within the right-of-way as outlined by town policy. The question is what to do about the gate damage and road material getting cut down.
- The Board discussed the potential liability and heard comments from citizens.
- Will Jones volunteered to continue research into the potential liability of the town. He agreed to keep Mr. Doyon updated during his investigation.
- Will Jones moved to table the matter until the Sept 8 Regular Meeting.

Fleming

- Bryant Fleming shared his concerns over a section of Hale Road. Road Foreman Jim Hayes explained the road is not completed, there is still more work to be done. Ron Gray agreed to meet with Bryant to assess the area.
- Lyn Fleming asked if guard rails could be installed. Hale Road had guardrails in the past and she believes it is a necessary safety feature considering the conditions.
- Jim Hayes agrees guardrails would be a good idea. Sue Hayes suggested he add it to his budget for 2026.

Mad Brook Road Bridge

- Asst. Clerk & Asst. Treasurer Marcel Lapierre brought up the lack of funding for the Mad Brook Road Bridge in a previous meeting. Ron Gray spoke with Treasurer Heather Gonyaw who confirmed Marcel's statements. The repairs may require the use of the \$100,000 surplus that was allocated to the Town Garage. The remaining funds from the line of credit will be utilized first, but the cost of the repair is expected to be greater than the remaining credit.
- FEMA does not issue payment until after the project is completed. There are two projects the town has fully completed that are eligible for reimbursement. The FEMA money from those projects will be used to replace any funds taken from the Town Garage surplus.

Town Garage Renovations

- Sukey Watson gave an update on the progress of the Town Garage renovations. An electrician evaluated the garage and estimated a cost of about \$14,000 for the electrical portion of the project.
- Ron Gray described the cost analysis they are conducting to find the best path forward for the Town Garage. The cost of making an entirely new building would be about \$1.4 million. The Board is currently working to get an estimate of the cost to repair the current building so they can compare the options.
- The biggest question remaining for the cost of repair is the level of ADA compliance required. Once the Board has that information, they will be able to compare which solution will better suit the town's needs.

Purchasing Policy

- Sue Hayes recommended using the VLCT Purchasing Policy Model. The Board would need to decide on specific figures to fill in the blanks and make it suit the needs of the town.
- Sue Hayes moved to table the matter until the Sept 8 Regular Meeting. All Board members will discuss their choice of figures and vote on what to fill in each blank with.
- Tim Yarrow suggested they invite the Town Treasurer and purchasing agents to be involved so they can ensure the needs of their department are being met.

- Tim Yarrow suggested adding instances of fundraising to the policy model.

Citizens' Concerns

- Dave Morrison encouraged the Board to put Citizens' Concerns at the top of the agenda instead of at the end. Ron Gray explained that it was moved to the end because Citizens' Concerns were taking up too much time and negatively affected planned business getting done.
- Dave Morrison requested the topic of Enforcement be returned to the agenda and encouraged the Board to tackle the issue. Wade Cochran discussed how low staffing is preventing both state and county forces from expanding enforcement.
- Kathy Hodgdon asked for an update on the issue of ice build up and debris falling onto town roads from interstate bridges. Ron Gray and Jim Hayes are in contact with state people who are planning to correct the issues this year.
- Kathy Hodgdon questioned why roadside mowing seemed to be inefficient. Jim Hayes explained the new mower has a much smaller swath than the old mower and this is the first year this Road Crew member has been responsible for roadside mowing, so he is working to gain the experience needed to be more efficient.
- Kathy Hodgdon requested for an update about when Mad Brook Road will be graded. Jim said the roads are too dry to grade at the moment, and it will be done when the weather allows.
- Dave Morisson thanked Jim Hayes and his crew for their work.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting sept reg meeting

- Festival Permit
- Purchasing Policy
- Doyon Drive
- Budget
- Insurance

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) - Personnel

- Tim Yarrow moved to enter Executive Session. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The group entered Executive Session at 8:13 PM.
- The Group exited Executive Session at 8:43 PM.
- Tim Yarrow moved to have Town Legal Council review and advise on finalizing retirement compensation for a town employee. Wade Cochran seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

- Sue Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting. Wade Cochran seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Waterford Selectboard Meeting August 11, 2025

Sign In Sheet

Name

Signature

Lyn Fleming
BRYANT FLEMING
Marcia Martez
CELESTIA
Howard Jenkins
Rae Borowicz
Mike O'Hara
Dwaine Hest
Timothy Dayon
David E. Morrison
Kelly Hodgden
Sukey Watson
DANIEL FOSTER

Lyn Fleming
Bryant Fleming
Marcia Martez
Celestia
Mike O'Hara
Dwaine Hest
Timothy Dayon
David E. Morrison
Kelly Hodgden
Sukey Watson
Daniel Foster