

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD MEETING
Monday, June 22, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEMBER PRESENT: Sheila Morse, Tara Cheney, Kim Frost, Chip Carter, Mike Szostak

STAFF PRESENT: Elly Majonen, Erika Elder, Jim Freeman

PRESENT IN PERSON: Mark Anderson, Zon Eastes

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Kyle Parker, Don McLean, Shaun Murphy, Karen Murphy, Cindy Clark

- I. Call to Order by Sheila at 6:30 pm
- II. Rules of Procedure read by Chip
- III. Welcoming of Public; Community Comment Period
Tara: We will paint the stop bars on Sunday 06.28 early in the morning.
- IV. Changes to Agenda Order
- V. Updates & Reports
 - a. State Representative Zon Eastes (15 minutes)
Honored to serve Guilford & Vernon, has learned so much. Serves on the Human Services committee. Introduced a bill, based on resident & Uriel outreach. The bill regards land posting. It went through & passed and was signed by the Governor. Thanks people who reach out. It makes a difference. Highlights - hear most about affordability. Act 73 & H95 are education transformation bills. Land Use bills -S325 repeals Act 181's Road Rule and Tier 3. Zon is not in favor of total repeal. Act 181 allows towns with zoning to make land use decisions. Guilford & Vernon will rely on Act 250 rules. Health Care is an ongoing issue. Important bills passed to contain costs. Bills that don't get passed by committee have to start from zero. Zon is running for reelection. Tara asked a question about the tax rate and the time frame for a change. 2030 new tax rates will stabilize. Report from Tax Dept. Zon's kickoff is Sunday at the Community Park.
 - b. Highway
Jim: Caught up on grading. Replacing culverts and ditching. Met with Lisa from WRC to update the Culvert map. GMP replaced 39. We did 18. None are failing, but there are old culverts. State wants upsized. MRGP work will be on Carpenter Hill. Signs for Center Road are ready but we're waiting on posts for the order to be complete. Increased tree calls.
 - c. Town Administrator
Update packet on culvert plan on website ongoing.

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VT Covered Bridge Society dropped off a flag for Green River Covered Bridge pending approval of Green River Preservation Trust. Stone line ditching work got approval from VTrans. Still waiting on Town Highway grant execution.

Potentially rabid raccoon reported to Animal Control officer. New ATA - Trish Thomas.

VI. New Business

a. Regional Policing Pilot for Windham County

Sheriff Mark Anderson

Sheila: We invited the public to join us at this meeting. Mark: Act 104 is a pilot project to establish the Law Enforcement Governance Council- Problem has been studied for 60 years. VT law doesn't compel Sheriffs to do Law Enforcement. No tax funding for Law Enforcement. That was by contract. 8-year pilot project. Regional County Governance study committee. Need 5 towns to join, already have 2 towns, Vernon & Graton. 17 towns have expressed interest. There needs to be a selectboard member to deal with task as they need to be selected by the public. Tara asked about Guilford - specific needs and services. What is the formula and how will it work? Approved existing budget of \$68k, costs look to be approx \$70k.

Discussion:

Per Capita - \$33 per resident per year. Levers that the Council can pull.

- i. Invite comments from meeting participants
- ii. **MOTION:** Sheila moved and Chip seconded. Shall the town join the Windham County Regional Law Enforcement Governance Council? Vote was by voice. four were in favor. Tara abstained. Motion passed.
- iii. Appoint one Selectboard member to the Council.
MOTION: Sheila moved to appoint Tara with Mike as backup. Kim seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

VII. Old Business

a. Price Increase for One-Ton Truck Purchase

New total \$134,593.00. Increased from \$127,947.00 because of tariffs, 2026 not 2025 truck.

MOTION: Tara moved and Mike Seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

b. Slate Rock Road Culvert Project

"Alternatives" Presentation Public Meeting 7.21.26 at BBCC. Draft presentation is available.

VIII. New Business, continued

a. Non-Employee Work Agreement

MOTION: Sheila moved to approve the agreement with Rory Lincoln and Mike seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. Correspondence

Knotweed Symposium in Charlemont at 6pm on 6/26/26

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X. Finance ACTION: MOTION

a. Budget Status

Sheila: As the FYE draws to a close, we note the following with regard to the 003 municipal operating budget:

1. The Town collected \$220,683 less in taxes than required.
2. Regardless, the net shortfall in tax revenues is only \$107,420. Guilford's Delinquent Tax Collector work generated an income of about \$113,263, reducing the total shortfall in taxes collected by \$83K.
3. Total revenues through 6/22/26 equal \$1,319K.
4. Operating expenses will total ~\$1,050K.
5. In the best of all possible worlds, with total estimated revenue of \$1,319K and estimated expenses of \$1,050K Guilford could see a revenue surplus of ~\$270K.
 - Surplus would cover 100% of the budgeted \$225K transfer to the Asset Fund, and
 - still leave us with about \$45K to transfer to the Reserve Fund.
6. Final figures will be determined in August, as the draft audit is completed and various. Per the Auditor: "Additional accruals and year end adjustments can, and will, still be made subsequent to year end, and will be recorded back to FY26. Each balance sheet account needs to be reconciled, additional receivables and payables will be determined after year end, that are applicable to FY26, and will be recorded as such. There is also the potential that there will be proposed audit adjustments that could also change amounts that exist at year end, and those would be identified when I return to do the audit in August. Once all of those items are complete we will have a definitive amount that would be a resulting deficit or surplus."

b. Warrants

Payroll - WE 06.14.26	\$6,986.16
Payroll - WE 06.21.26	\$8,087.52
Expense Warrant #2624	\$43,083.88
Expense Warrant #2624A	\$4,000
TOTAL	\$62,157.56

MOTION: Tara moved to accept the warrants as written and Sheila seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of 06.08.26

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MOTION: Sheila moved to approve the minutes. Mike seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. Actions Taken

- a. Approved the minutes of regular meeting 06.08.26
- b. Approved Law Enforcement Governance Council Membership; Tara Cheney as appointed person, Mike as second.
- c. Approved price increase for One-Ton Truck purchase
- d. Approved work agreement for Rory Lincoln, cemetery mowing
- e. Approved warrants and minutes
- f. Approved payroll

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: Sheila moved to adjourn and Kim seconded. The vote was unanimous. All were in favor, no objections. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Next Meeting 07.13.26

Meeting Recording:

<https://www.brattleborotv.org/guilford-selectboard/guilford-selectboard-mtg-6-22-26/>

Approved 07.13.26

Sheila Morse



Tara Cheney



Chip Carter



Michael Szostak



Kim Frost
