

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD MEETING
Monday, July 27, 6:30 pm, 236 School Road, Guilford, VT

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheila Morse, Chair; Mike Szostak; Kim Frost

STAFF PRESENT: Erika Elder, Jim Freeman, Elly Majonen

PRESENT IN PERSON: Steve Lembke, Jim Spencer, Verandah Porsche, Alan Bellville, Kyle Parker, John Shaw

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Don McLean, sdwight (Curry Murphy), Jeannette Tokarz, Roman Nemet, Karen (iPhone), Mea Whitworth, Paul Belogour

Minutes

- I. Call to Order at 6:30 by Sheila
2. Rules of Procedure briefly reviewed by Sheila
3. Welcoming of Public; Community Comment Period (10 minutes)
Steve: L: Beaver activity, Wild Life Alert posted at Mill pond at Green River. Beavers are swimming. Keep dogs on leash, swimmers should get out if you see a beaver in the water.
Sheila: Accident in front of the Guilford Store this morning - a motorcycle was speeding past the store and was hit by someone exiting the store.
4. Changes to Agenda Order Sheila requested to move the Windham Regional correspondence to the next item.
5. Updates & Reports
 - a. Windham Regional Plan Update
Erika introduced a Notice of public hearing for Tuesday August 18th at WRC offices in Brattleboro. The purpose of the public meeting is to take public comment about the update to the regional plan. Steve Lembke: Act 181 necessitated some changes to the regional plan. Regional Planning Commissions are advisory. Two major portions of Act 181 were rescinded, leaving revision of Act 250. This will make applications easier for towns. Steve encouraged people to attend the public meeting if there is interest in regional planning. The 2026 Windham Regional Commission Plan must be developed and passed by the towns by the end of the year. Now is the time to be active for Act 181 – go to google for: WRC2026 regional plan for the meeting info.
 - b. Highway
Jim: Band rail repair on Colyer Road, continuing to mow in the Hinesburg area.
Large warrant for Truck #3 repair a mirror that was damaged years ago. Duct

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tape stopped holding. Culvert work coming up on one way roads/dead ends.
Light next to Blueberry Haus is blinking, not showing speed, Erika will change.

c. Town Administrator

a. Speed Sign: road crew moved the speed sign from Hinesburg Rd to the Blueberry Haus and Erika will set it to show the speed.

The end of July marked the due date for the MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Project) grant reporting. The Energy Committee got a MERP mini grant to have an energy audit done on the library. There is still money left over from the mini grant (\$3K) which needs to be spent by end of year. Algiers Scoping Study: met with selection committee last week. Negotiations with the first consultant have ended. Alternate consultant was selected and has received an RFP.

2025 Town Report submitted to VLCT town report contest; BMH Letter from board sent. VLCT director, Ted Brady, stopped by to connect.

Elly organized staff meeting with Invest EAP – very helpful resources for all staff and families.

6. Old Business

a. Slate Rock Culvert Replacement Project

MOTION: Sheila moved to choose Option 1, the 4-sided box culvert.

Erika reminds that information is on website under Guilford info/Slate Rock Road Replacement Culvert. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

b. Regional Collaboration regarding Highway Crew Personnel **DISCUSSION**

Sheila: Asks for public input on Highway recruitment and retention. Guilford is not alone; it's the same for all our neighboring towns. We might discuss creating a regional pool of potential applicants through High Schools, BDCC, Windham Regional/ CDL programs. Need to figure out how to attract applicants. Verandah commented about possibilities for younger school kids. Jim reminds us that the Pre-K class in Guilford visits the Town Garage. Kyle commented on CDL training possibilities. Sheila commented on apprenticeship options. Jim spoke about the Train-to CDL potential. Kyle's idea of incentives and grants towards CDL licenses and piggy back with Fire Dept.

7. New Business

a. Stormwater Master Planning Program **ACTION:** *MOTION: to consider DEC offer to investigate stormwater issues in Guilford for a possible grant.*

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Sheila introduced the ANR program to provide a consultant to identify

MOTION: Sheila moved to accept the offer to investigate potential stormwater issues in Guilford; Mike seconded; Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

b. Library Trustee Resignation (10 minutes) **ACTION: MOTION**

Judith Serkin resignation and Trustee recommendation to fill the vacancy

Judith Serkin, Trustee for 24 years, resigned. Trustees analyzed needs for a new Trustee and recommended Peter Hetzel fill Judith's spot until Town meeting when an election will be held to finish the term in 2028.

MOTION: Sheila moved to appoint Peter Hetzel, Kim seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

c. 2026 Tax Rate per **17 V.S.A. § 2664** (10 minutes) **ACTION: MOTION**

Erika described the Tax Rate Calculation process. Elly: Budget & articles presented for annual report were spot on for tax rate estimated municipal rate. The rate per \$100 of assessed value is split: 30% for local municipal and highway operating budgets, and 70% goes to the State's education.

MOTION: Sheila moved to accept the tax rate for 2026 as drafted. Second by Kim. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

8. Correspondence

a. Roman Nemet Request

Resident request for Guilford be a party to an Act 250 petition regarding Viking Villages

Sheila described the request. Alan Bellville commented about residence status of Mr. Nemet. Roman Nemet: This is regarding the Town Plan and discrepancies in this project's land use. Not explained in the application. Marian Road is still being used despite the business having its own access road. Concerns for recreational use of Weatherhead Hollow. Sheila: The Town Plan is aspirational, not a mandate, and is not enforceable.

Jim Spencer: Mr. Nemet rides a motorcycle while complaining about noise. The Fairground also has large events. Roman Nemet commented about loud traffic at Viking Village year round not just once a year at Fairground. Sheila: Selectboard does not have authority here.

9. Finance **ACTION: MOTION**

a. Budget Status

Sheila: a month ago we projected that there should be sufficient revenue to cover

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FY26 expenditures. We will learn the exact numbers when the draft audit is completed and presented to the Selectboard late August.

b. Warrants

Payroll - WE 07.19.26	\$8,890.14
Payroll – WE 07.26.26	\$8,737.63
Expense Warrant #2702	\$22,837.56
TOTAL	\$40,465.33

MOTION: Sheila moved to pay the warrants. Kim seconded.

Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Approval of Minutes **ACTION:** MOTION (2 minutes)

MOTION: Sheila Moved to approve, then rescinded due to lack of quorum since Kim was not present 7.13.

11. Actions from Previous Meeting

- a. Approved Ruck-up coin drop on Rte 5 on Saturday 10.24
- b. Approved Moving Radar Sign From Hinesburg Road To Blueberry Haus
- c. Accepted TH Class-2 Grant
- d. Approved Denial Of VTel Grievance
- e. Approved Internal Financial Control Checklist
- f. Approved FY27 Employee Pay Rates
- g. Approved Non-Employee Work Agreement With Matt Earp
- h. Approved Transfer Of 4 Cooling Units To BBCC
- i. Approved Letter Of Support From Selectboard For BMH Birthing Center
- j. Approved Minutes Of 6/22/26 Meeting
- k. Approved Warrants

12. Action Taken

- a. Approved Slate Rock culvert alternative
- b. Approved Stormwater Grant work

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- c. Accepted Judith Serkin's Resignation from Library Trustees and Appointed Pete Hetzel to fill the position until the next election
- d. Approved Warrants

13. Actions to be Taken

14. Adjournment

MOTION: Kim moved to adjourn at 7:57 Mike Seconded. Vote was by voice. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

Meeting Recording:

<https://www.brattleborotv.org/guilford-selectboard/guilford-selectboard-mtg-7-27-26/>

Approved 08.10.26

Sheila Morse



Tara Cheney



Chip Carter

Michael Szostak



Kim Frost

