

**TOWN OF RUTLAND SELECTBOARD OPEN MEETING
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL
181 BUSINESS ROUTE 4, CENTER RUTLAND, VT 05736
JUNE 30th, 2026**

- The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. with the pledge of allegiance.
- Board members present Mary Ashcroft, Joe Denardo, Sharon Russell, Kurt Hathaway, and Matt Getty
- Members of the public present Chris Howland

Approval of Selectboard Minutes for June 14th:

Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the minutes. Selectman Getty seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 – 0. Selectman Denardo abstained.

Approval of Orders

Selectman Denardo moved to approve the orders. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Question from the Floor / Public Comment

Chris Howland was present to discuss use of Town Hall meeting room space. After discussion, Mr. Howland was asked to complete the online request form and to reach out to Town Administrator Bill Sweet regarding the request.

Mike Rowe Rutland Town Recreation Director:

1. Discussed the July 3rd event coming up this Friday. There are several vendors and events planned. It should be a great event. We are able to use the caterpillar carts from Hathaway Farms for the event. An agreement for use was drafted. After review, Selectman Denardo moved to approve the agreement and to authorize Rec Director Mike Rowe to sign it. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 – 0. Selectman Hathaway abstained.
2. Met with the architects who are helping the new pool design. It went well and we are looking forward to their recommendations.

Ted Washburn Rutland Town Police Chief:

1. Chief Washburn presented Senior Officer Jimmy Plakas for a promotion ceremony to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. The oath of office was given, and Officer Plakas was sworn in to the rank of Deputy Chief.
2. The Police will be participating in the event on Friday night.
3. Interviews for the open patrol officer and school resource officer positions are scheduled.

David Sears Rutland Town Road Commissioner:

1. Reviewed the final payment request to Casellas for the south end sewer project.
 - a. The holdback was \$49,000 pending a few items to be completed. All of the items have been completed.
 - b. The project came in \$103,000 less than anticipated. Selectman Denardo moved to send a letter to Casellas thanking them for coming in under cost for the project. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Selectman Getty moved to approve the payment request and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Working on culverts ahead of the anticipated paving schedule.
3. Cleaned up trees, debris and some washouts related to the recent storms.
4. The Post Road sewer pump station is having some problems. A1 sewer helped investigate the problem. There are some old valves and electrical relays which need repair or may need to be replaced.
5. Reviewed the bids received for the Stratton Road culvert replacement. Two bids were received for the rebid project. KT Hathaway construction bid \$183,040. Holstrom Excavating bid \$351,500. Otter Creek engineering contacted the references for KT Hathaway and provided follow-up. After discussion, Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the KT Hathaway bid. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 – 0. Selectman Hathaway abstained from the vote and discussion.
6. Discussed carrying over the stormwater funds from the FY26 budget to the FY27 budget. There is approximately \$37,000 in the budget line, which does not include the amount in the orders approved tonight. Selectman Denardo moved to carry over the funds. Selectman Getty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Selectman Denardo moved to carry over the Cortina Inn settlement fund to the next fiscal year in its own account. Selectman Russell seconded the motion. After discussion, there are charges made to the police budget which have it in deficit. Several of the charges are related to the new cruiser and other equipment which is to come from these settlement funds. If there is a deficit related to these purchases the Cortina fund will be used. If any additional deficits exist that are not related, they would be balanced from any surplus funds from the 1% local option tax. After the discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Chris Clark Rutland Town Fire Chief:

1. Discussed the \$44,516.15 cost to repave the Center Rutland Fire Station. Chief Clark wanted to confirm the cost would come from Capital improvements. Selectman Hathaway moved to approve the payment with funds to come from the capital improvement fund. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussed construction happening at the Cortina Inn. The only people onsite are construction people and staff. The State Division of fire safety is aware and monitoring the work.
3. Discussed the change made by the State to eliminate the forest fire warden position, and shift this role to the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief can appoint a key person to continue to issue burn permits. Selectman Denardo will fill this role.
4. The Fire department is attending the July 3rd event.

Marie Fagnant Rutland Town Lister

1. Grievance hearings were held yesterday. There were 4 in person hearings.
2. Discussed the reappraisal process, and reviewed the comparison between the 2 proposals submitted. The Listers Office is recommending using NEMRC for the reappraisal. There was extensive discussion on how changing from, or remaining with, NEMRC would affect the office and Town. Selectwoman Russell moved to accept the recommendation from the Listers and use NEMRC for the town reappraisal. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kari Clark Rutland Town Clerk and Treasurer:

1. The orders tonight are the first charged to the new fiscal year. Reporting on FY26 will be ready for the next meeting.
2. The next important date is the August primary, which is August 11th. Absentee ballots will be sent out soon. This date is also a Board meeting night.
3. Discussed how to handle security deposits held for projects which require them. The balance should be carried over. Selectman Denardo moved to carryover any security deposit balances from one fiscal year to the next in their own separate fund. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. This will be discussed with the auditor about the best way to handle it. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussed how the highway budget will be credited for the excavator expense. The auditor will be helping with the process.

Barbara Pulling Rutland Town Planning Commission Chair:

1. The Planning Commission discussed the changes made by the Town attorney to the draft subdivision bylaws. The Planning Commission reviewed them and made one additional change. The Selectboard did not discuss the changes or the document. A public hearing is warned for a future meeting.
2. Discussed options and plans for signs for the pocket park. Discussed what needs to happen at the park. It was agreed we need Robert Clark to come and talk about the project. We will try to coordinate his time with a highway committee meeting.

Joe Denardo Public Safety Building Clerk

1. Reviewed the proof of loss statement from VLCT. They clarified it was to say the damage was not intentional nor fraudulent. The word "intentional" was added to the signed copy to ensure clarification. Selectman Hathaway moved to approve the statement and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Sweet Town Administrator:

1. Reviewed a certificate of public good filing from SameSun solar for a project along Route 4 East near Bellevue Lane.
2. Reviewed the warning for the 2 public hearings for the new subdivision bylaw. The warning is required to be posted at least 15 days in advance. Due to limitations at the Rutland Herald, the first notice could not be published until today. This meant the first hearing could not be until July 28th, and the second as August 11th. August 11th is the State primary date. If the August 11th Board meeting is moved the warning needs to be redone. The Board would like to have a short meeting on August 11th with department heads only reporting if there is something that cannot wait.
3. Provided 2 easement deeds updated by our Town attorney. They are the construction and permanent easements needed for the Route 7 North sidewalk. After discussion, the Board decided to accept the easement with all the changes proposed. The drafts will be updated and sent to the committee members.
4. Town hall will be closed Friday July 3rd for the Independence Day holiday.

Selectman Hathaway moved to adjourn. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Sweet, Town Administrator.

Mary Ashcroft, Chair

Joseph Denardo, Clerk

Sharon Russell

Kurt Hathaway

Matt Getty

Center Rutland, VT.