

**TOWN OF RUTLAND SELECTBOARD OPEN MEETING
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL
181 BUSINESS ROUTE 4, CENTER RUTLAND, VT 05736
AUGUST 25th, 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 Bob Knight, Shelley Lutz, Bill Bauer, Pete Chase

Approval of Selectboard Minutes for August 11th:

Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the minutes. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. An addition was made to correct an omission. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Orders

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

Announcements

Selectwoman Russell expressed her appreciation for everyone involved in making the recent Community Day event a success.

Update from the Selectboard Chair

Articles for the Circle will be due in the new few weeks.

Received a thank you note from a scholarship award recipient.

Received a thank you note from a resident giving praise to departments and staff of the town.

Question from the Floor / Public Comment

Bob Knight was present to make a request for a fallen tree to be removed from some headstones in the Cheney Hill Cemetery. Selectman Hathaway, who is also a cemetery commissioner, said he would take care of the tree in the morning.

Residents from Quarterline Road were present to discuss issues they have with a specific residence. Shelley Lutz discussed some cars which do not belong to residents seen in the area. The residents present relayed their frustration to the Board. There are few regulations in Town which would govern some of the issues brought up.

Discussed the pending Walmart Act 250 application. There is a prehearing conference on September 10th.

Discussed the agenda item coming up later in the meeting to reclassify all of Quarterline Road as Class 3.

David Sears Rutland Town Road Commissioner:

1. Reported on a sinkhole on East Mountain View Road which is a result of a failed culvert.
 - a. Otter Creek Engineering was contacted and is starting to look into this.
 - b. This culvert is down stream from the one which was recently replaced on Town Line Road and there is a possibility it may need to be the same size or larger.
 - c. We are waiting to hear back from the engineer to determine next steps.
2. Reported on some maintenance tasks done around town.
3. The paving contractor is starting soon on planned projects.
4. Hubbards has been starting to deliver salt.
5. Reviewed the contract for the Stratton Road culvert replacement
 - a. The total cost is \$183,000.
 - b. Selectman Getty moved to approve the contract for a total of \$183,000 and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Hathaway abstained from the vote.
 - c. Selectman Getty moved to approve the notice to proceed and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Hathaway abstained from the vote.
6. Reviewed the process to reclassify Quarterline Road as all Class 3.
 - a. There are several steps and notification requirements.
 - b. After discussion Bill will develop a schedule and report back to the Board

Chris Clark Rutland Town Fire Chief:

1. Presented an application for a new member. They live in Rutland City. All of the background checks have been satisfied. Selectman Denardo moved to approve Conner Mazzearella as a new member of the Fire Department. Selectman Hathway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Marie Fagnant Rutland Town Lister

1. Presented an errors and omission statement for the Board to approve.
 - a. There are some recent and some older issues which need to be corrected.
 - b. All but one are for business personal property.
 - c. After discussion, Selectman Denardo moved to approve the Errors and Omissions presented by the Listers. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Rowe Rutland Town Recreation Director:

1. Over 400 people attended the recent Community Day event. August 15th will be the event date next year.
2. The pool is closed for the season. There were approximately 8500 visitors this year. Its down slightly because some school groups could not attend as much.
3. The annual U10 soccer event will be hosted at Northwood again this year.
4. The Halloween party at the school is October 30th from 4PM to 530PM.

Ted Washburn Rutland Town Police Chief:

1. Recent calls for service were provided.
2. Discussed some issues which are both new and ongoing at the Diamond Run Mall. Mr. Sweet will reach out to the owners to discuss the issues.
3. Discussed the opportunity to participate in the Highway Safety program. It has been expanded to allow the Town to do these patrols on known problem roads. The entire cost of the patrol is reimbursable. Selectman Hathaway moved to approve the recommendation from the Police Committee for our Police Department to participate in the program. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. The candidate for the school resource officer position withdrew. The candidate for the patrol officer position is moving forward. An executive session is needed at the end of the meeting to discuss this.
5. Discussed the Walmart project, and the upcoming pre-hearing. After discussion, Selectman Denardo moved to have the Selectboard Chair attend the meeting. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Pulling Rutland Town Planning Commission Chair:

1. Reviewed the results of efforts at the recent Community Day event. 55 responses were received for input into the name for the pocket park. The results will be reviewed at the next commission meeting. A survey on the Town plan was also done. A recommendation based on both will be provided to the Selectboard soon.
2. Discussed a recent meeting with VTrans regarding moving the watering trough. There was a question about the old right of way off Simons Ave which had to be cleared up before anything could be done. VTrans determined they relinquished the ROW to the town. Some additional details from Robert Clark are needed.

Kari Clark Rutland Town Clerk and Treasurer:

1. Reported on the recent primary election.
2. The next election in November will have ballots mailed to everyone by the State. The State is pulling the addresses on September 1st.
3. Discussed challenges with the Post Office not delivering in a timely fashion. This has a direct impact on ballots and tax payments. Tax payments received after the due date are considered late regardless of the postmark. Some enhancements to the online tax payment status are in development.
4. Reviewed the engagement letter provided by the auditors. The cost is up this year due to an increase in work needed on the part of the auditors to get information our current software doesn't provide easily. After discussion Selectman Getty moved to approve the contract with AM Peisch for auditing services for \$27,500 with the funds to come from the Professional Services budget line. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Several interviews have been done for the open office position. A decision has not yet been made.

Joe Denardo Public Safety Building Clerk

1. Consideration for paving the back parking lot of the building needs to be made.
2. Discussed the plan to connect the sewer pumping station on McKinley Ave to the generator at the public safety building. The electrician who did not work at the building is familiar with it but a cost estimate has not yet been received.
3. Discussed options to sell the generator at the building which is far too large for it in favor of getting one more appropriately sized. No decision was made.

Bill Sweet Town Administrator:

1. Reviewed correspondence from the City of Rutland regarding Fire District #8. It indicated the City would take over the management and infrastructure serving their houses. The Town would like a similar arrangement to other town users. The city would bill them adding Town O&M, the Town would own the infrastructure in Town land. Mr. Sweet will follow up with the City regarding this.
2. Bid requests for heating oil and propane have been sent out and should be in soon.
3. A grant application for the study of restoration and relocation of the town owned covered bridge has been submitted. It will be a few weeks before we hear back on it.
4. Work is progressing on coming back into compliance with an old grant program to help us be eligible for a new grant to be used toward pool replacement.
5. Reviewed the variable rate pricing ordinance. It requires waste haulers to submit their rates to the town. It went into effect over 10 years ago but has not been followed up on. After discussion, it will be referred to the transfer station committee.
6. Reported on an April 2028 deadline to have our municipal website meet specific accessibility requirements. The complexity of these requirements is beyond what we are able to do internally. Some meetings have been held with vendors who can help us develop a new site. Budgeting will need to be included in the next fiscal year.

Selectman Hathaway moved to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter and a separate personal matter. Town Administrator Bill Sweet to attend the first discussion, Police Chief Washburn and Deputy Police Chief Plakas to attend the second. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 8:40PM.

Upon leaving executive session, Selectman Getty moved to award one week of comp time to Lynette Gallipo in compensation for prior uncompensated service to the town. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hathaway moved to adjourn. Selectman Denardo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Sweet, Town Administrator.

8/25/2026

Mary Ashcroft, Chair

Joseph Denardo, Clerk

Sharon Russell

Kurt Hathaway

Matt Getty

Center Rutland, VT.