

**TOWN OF RUTLAND SELECTBOARD OPEN MEETING
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL
181 BUSINESS ROUTE 4, CENTER RUTLAND, VT 05736
SEPTEMBER 8th, 2026**

- The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. with the pledge of allegiance.
- Board members present Mary Ashcroft, Sharon Russell, Kurt Hathaway, and Matt Getty
- Members of the public present Lauston Stephens, Andrea Ameden, Nicholas Gallerani, Nicole Kesselring, Susan Ahearn, Rebekah Stephens, Eric Solsaa, Chris Howe

Approval of Selectboard Minutes for August 25th:

Selectman Hathaway moved to approve the minutes. Selectman Getty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Orders

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

Update from the Selectboard Chair

Articles for The Circle are due by September 15th.

Selectwoman Russell moved to enter executive session to hear advice from legal counsel with the Town Attorney attending. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 6:07PM. The Board came out of executive session at 6:25PM.

Board to discuss petition from Habitat for Humanity

Selectman Getty, based on the advice received regarding the petition, moved the Board should not accept the petition as drafted and to not include it on the ballot. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. There was extensive discussion and participation from those present.

- The language on the petition included the current tax year in the tax-exempt request, which is not the correct process.
- Rebekah Stevens, the Rutland Habitat for Humanity Executive Director read a statement of reasons why they felt it should be included and their concerns with the process.
- Eric Solsaa, the Rutland Habitat for Humanity Chair, read a statement regarding the scenario and the process they have gone through. In the statement, Mr. Solsaa asked the Board to exercise their authority and change the language in the petition from the first exempt tax year of 2026 – 2027 to 2027 – 2028, while honoring the signatures on the petition. Board members were provided with a copy of the statement.
- The State election division had given their opinion that changes to a petition would require voters to resign the new petition.
- Town Attorney Kevin Brown stated the Board can make non-substantive changes to a petition and not have new signatures required. Changes to the commencement date would be substantive.

- There was additional extensive discussion on the request.
- After the discussion ended, the motion to deny the petition carried unanimously.

Board to meet with Devon Neary from the RRPC to discuss grant funding projects and other town topics

1. Reviewed a capital improvement planning grant available to the Town. Applications open in October and are due in December. Discussed the benefits of planning the future replacements of capital assets. Grant awards will be announced in early 2027.
2. Reviewed some of the benefits the new regional land use map and plan now that it has been adopted. Without zoning in town, there are some aspects the Town cannot take advantage of. Discussed some of the advantages zoning could bring to the Town. The Town plan update, being worked on now, is a good tool to have in place and then develop zoning regulations. Mr. Neary will come back to discuss this further at a future meeting.
3. Discussed opportunities through a State program to help support development. The project on Post Road may be a good fit for this.

Board to review for approval permits related to a new credit union project.

1. The Vermont Federal Credit Union is planning a new branch on the south end of town.
2. Details of the project were presented. This would be their second branch in the area.
3. The project is subject to the Act 250 process due to the original parcel this area was subdivided from having an Act 250 permit.
4. Reviewed plans for driveway, water connection and sewer connection.
5. There are some state permits they are working their way through.
6. Permits for a new water connection and a sewer allocation were presented. Selectman Getty moved to approve the 2 requests. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
7. An Act 250 municipal impact questionnaire is needed for their application. The project will be reviewed with the appropriate department heads, and the topic will be added to the next agenda.

Ted Washburn Rutland Town Police Chief:

1. Recent calls for service were provided. There were 194 calls for service in August.
2. The applicant for the patrol officer position will be starting September 21st.
3. There have been additional cases of vandalism reported at the mall property recently.
4. Reviewed the proposed amendment to the Vehicle and Traffic ordinance to remove references to flashing lights on Post Road, Town Highway 9. Selectman Getty moved to amend the ordinance as discussed. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

David Sears Rutland Town Road Commissioner:

1. Paving work continues. It should be wrapped up this Friday.
2. Parking lots lines were painted at the Center Rutland Fire Station today.
3. There is a committee meeting Thursday morning to discuss the East Mtn View Road culvert.
4. Reviewed a schedule for the site visit and hearing for the reclassification on Quarterline Road from Class 3 and 4 to all Class 3. Selectman Hathaway moved to adopt the proposed

schedule for the reclassification. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Completed the missing sections of the Stratton Road culvert replacement contract. A designated town official needs to be filled in. Selectman Getty moved to have Commissioner Sears be the designated town official. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 – 0. Selectman Hathaway abstained from the vote.
6. Reviewed a letter sent to the Town in response to our request for VTrans assist us with the reconfiguration of the exit lanes at the Green Mountain plaza. They are declining our request and cited several reasons.

Chris Clark Rutland Town Fire Chief:

1. The new portable radios are in. The invoice for them is in the orders.

Marie Fagnant Rutland Town Lister

1. Reviewed an errors and omissions statement. This is due to an error on the part of the State. This adds value to our grand list. After discussion, Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the statement. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Rowe Rutland Town Recreation Director:

1. Some upcoming events for the Town seniors include a foliage trip to the top of Killington on the gondolas and a painting / pizza party which will be held at Town Hall.
2. Reviewed the meeting recently held about replacing the pool. A timeline for the design work was discussed. It should be completed by February of 2027. The next phase will be to work on completing the documents needed to go out to bid. This is expected to be ready by March of 2028.
3. The soccer program on Saturdays at Northwood is starting. Each Saturday there are about 300 kids plus families in the park.

John Paul Fagnant Town Health Officer / 2nd Constable / Public Safety Building Clerk

1. Discussed speeding penalties in school zones. The State has amended the statutes to allow for double fines in school zones. An information campaign will be started to notice people about the double penalties. The double fine applies at all times, not just when school is in session.

Barbara Pulling Rutland Town Planning Commission Chair:

1. The Planning Commission has a suggested name for the Pocket Park. Mead Falls Park was the preferred name. This comes from a survey done at the Town Community Day event. A breakdown of names and votes will be given to the Board for the next meeting.
2. A member of the Planning Commission is planning to attend the Walmart meeting on Thursday.

Kari Clark Rutland Town Clerk and Treasurer:

1. The 1st installment of taxes is due by 430PM on Thursday, September 10th.

Bill Sweet Town Administrator:

1. Bids requests were sent out for heating oil and propane for the 26 / 27 season. The request was published online, in the Rutland Herald and mailed directly to multiple vendors. The sealed bids were opened at the meeting.
 - a. Gecha Fuels bid \$.30 per gallon over rack price on the day of delivery. This price was for #2 heating oil, ultra-low sulfur diesel and off-road diesel.
 - b. Johnson Energy bid \$.40 per gallon over rack price on the day of delivery, with a cap of \$4.499 for the contract period.
 - c. No bids were received for propane.
 - d. After discussion, Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the bid from Johnson Energy and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Reviewed the annual generator maintenance agreement with Brook Field Service. The total cost is \$5196. This is for 2 service visits for the school generator and 1 for all others. Selectman Getty moved to approve the agreement and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Discussed setting fees for the new subdivision bylaws. There is a boundary line adjustment, a minor, and a major subdivision. Currently the BLA is \$50, minor and major subdivisions are \$300. The new process does not involve the Planning Commission unless it's a major application. After discussion, the BLA and minor applications will require a \$100 fee. Major applications will remain at \$300.
4. GE of Rutland submitted information related to an Act 250 permit they are filing for a new chemical facility. They were planning to attend tonight but were unable. The project will be brought to the department heads for their input and put on the next agenda.
5. Several years ago, the Town was awarded a \$4000 grant through State Building and General Services. There have been several projects we tried to get approval for funding, but none were approved. The grant is expiring soon. Two thermal imaging cameras were purchased and will be made available to Town residents so they can check their homes to help identify any energy leaks. There will be no charge to use them.
6. Discussed the plan to connect the McKinley Avenue sewer pumping station to our generator. The pump complex is inside State property. We are waiting to hear back from who can give us permission to do this work.

Selectman Hathaway moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Sweet, Town Administrator.

Mary Ashcroft, Chair

ABSENT

Joseph Denardo, Clerk

Sharon Russell

Kurt Hathaway

Matt Getty

Center Rutland, VT.