

**TOWN OF RUTLAND SELECTBOARD OPEN MEETING
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL
181 BUSINESS ROUTE 4, CENTER RUTLAND, VT 05736
OCTOBER 6th, 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 Robyn Sweet, Chris Howe, Michael Miller

Approval of Selectboard Minutes for September 22nd:

Selectman Getty moved to approve the minutes. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Orders

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

Update from the Selectboard Chair

The Walmart Act 250 hearing will be on Tuesday December 1st at 9:30AM at the Regional Planning Commission in Rutland. Discussed how the application process is working so far.

The next edition of The Circle will be in homes soon.

Board to meet with the newly hired Town Police Officer

1. Brendan Reilly was introduced to the Board.
2. Officer Reilly started a couple of weeks ago and has been busy so far.

Board to review Habitat for Humanity request

1. Rebekah Stevens, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity was present.
2. They are asking the Board to review their petition language in advance. This has already been sent to our Town attorney who will reach out to them.
3. The Board does not preapprove language in ballot petitions for items not prepared for the Town itself.
4. Asked the Board if they would accept the signatures from the original petition because the intent was the same. They were advised to get new signatures on the new petition.

Marie Faignant Rutland Town Lister

1. There is a penalty for late homestead declaration filings. It was thought we were incorrectly charging 8%, but we are only charging the 3% allowed by statute. By Statute, this will go up to 5% in the coming years.
2. A process needs to be established to handle homestead grievances. Homeowners are required to file a homestead declaration. There are 65 residents who have not filed for the current year. A grievance policy is required, and a draft was provided for the Board to review.

3. The grievance policy needs to cover a variety of scenarios.
4. A resolution was drafted and presented to the Board. This would establish the penalty rate of 3%, the ability to request an abatement and establish the appeal process. The body which will hear the appeals needs to be decided.
5. After discussion, Selectman Getty moved to forward a request for a penalty to be abated grounded in commissioners' penalty or hardship to the Board of Abatement and to approve the resolution as presented. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. There is a free clinic for Board of Abatement members to get training on the process.
7. The State is requiring updates to the grand list to include a dwelling count. This is for every place someone could inhabit.

Mike Rowe Rutland Town Recreation Director:

1. The Town seniors are going up to Killington peak on Wednesday the 7th.
2. The next senior lunch is October 27th at Town Hall.
3. The Thanksgiving meal is November 17th and will be at the Center Rutland Fire Station.
4. Thanked Deputy Chief Plakas with his help during the Saturday soccer games at Northwood.
5. The Halloween party at the school is October 30th from 4 to 530.

Ted Washburn Rutland Town Police Chief:

1. Recent calls for service were provided and reviewed. There were 282 calls for September.
2. Presented a quote for a new copier from Symquest. This is to replace the one at their office and will align their unit with the same vendor as all the other units. The total will be \$168.87. After discussion, Selectman Denardo moved to accept the agreement and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

David Sears Rutland Town Road Commissioner:

1. Quarterline Road and Boardman Hill dirt sections have been graded for the end of the season.
2. Discussed the Post Road sewer line and pump station which was part of a recent Highway Committee meeting. There is some work needed to repair leaking valves which needs to be done soon. There are also some maintenance upgrades needed which we hope to fund as part of a infrastructure upgrade related to a proposed development. Commissioner Sears will be working with Otter Creek Engineering to get some time and cost estimate for the repair work. A State permit will be needed.

Chris Clark Rutland Town Fire Chief:

1. Presented the Board with an application for a new member, Andrew Dahl. He is a City resident. He has passed the verification checks. Selectman Denardo moved to approve the application. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Hose testing was done last week. No hose lengths failed.
3. Pump testing was done recently. All the trucks passed.
4. The fire prevention program was done today at the school. There are several events coming up in the next couple of weeks for other fire prevention programs.

Kari Clark Rutland Town Clerk and Treasurer:

1. For the first installment of taxes, 97% were paid.
2. The first local option tax installment was received for \$452,203.07. The budgeted total is \$1.4M for the year.
3. Discussed some topics ahead of the November election
 - a. The State mailed out the ballots.
 - b. Many people are beginning to receive them.
 - c. The State provided a small number of extra ballots. It is important for voters to use the one that came in the mail. Residents with questions are encouraged to call the office. Additional information will be added to the website.
4. The auditors have given us a draft copy of the recent audit to review. This will be reviewed with them soon so a finance committee can be warned.

Bill Sweet Town Administrator:

1. Reviewed the project documents to have the sewer station backup power project bid. The State did reach out and has no objections to the project. After review, Selectman Denardo moved to go forward with the project and put it out to bid. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Provided a contract proposal from Irving Energy for propane. It is \$1.661 per gallon fixed. After discussion, Selectman Hathaway moved to approve the contract and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. ANR sent us a request to approve a modification to our MS4 grant paperwork. They are modifying the funding source to give us a little longer to use the funds. The final document will be sent for a digital signature. Selectwoman Russell moved to approve the modified grant agreement and to authorize the Chair to complete the digital contract form when it is ready. Selectman Hathaway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussed an email received from the State regarding municipalities who received federal funds for certain projects. Those municipalities are required to have a Title VI coordinator. Our Town does receive these funds, currently for the Route 7 North Shared Use Path project. We do not have a designated coordinator. After discussion and reviewing background and the requirements, Selectman Getty moved to designate Bill Sweet as our Towns Title VI Coordinator. Selectwoman Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Town Hall will be closed Monday October 12th for the Indigenous Peoples Day Holiday.
6. Sent a letter to the property contact for the closed Starbucks location on Route 7 South. The letter asked them to take care of the vegetation as required by their Act 250 permit. They followed up last week and said it would be taken care of.
7. Discussed recent conversations had with vendors regarding updating our Town website to be compliant with April 2028 accessibility guidelines. 2 new vendors, as well as our current vendor, have met with us to review our needs. Proposal are coming in and will need to be considered during the budgeting process to be able to fund the rework early next fiscal year.

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.