

1 **TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT**

2 **Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

3 **Monday, November 25, 2024**

4 **Draft**

5  
6 **Members Present:** Chach Curtis, Fred Messer, Christine Parisi, Larissa Ursprung

7 **Staff Present:** None

8 **Others Present:** Dana Donaldson (Mad River Arts), Miles Jenness (VT Heavy Timber), Betsy  
9 Jondro (NOW), Robin Morris, Josh Turka

10  
11 **I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Christine Parisi. The meeting  
12 was held in person at the Waitsfield Town Office and remotely via Zoom.

13  
14 **1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A).**

15 Approval of minutes was removed from the Consent Agenda.

16  
17 **2. Public Forum.**

18 Nobody present requested time to address the Board.

19  
20 **II. Regular Business.**

21  
22 **1. Liquor License Approval - Mad River Taste Place.**

23 Ms. Parisi explained that, although the Taste Place has held a license, the change in ownership  
24 requires that a new license be issued, and related Town protocols will be followed.

25 Josh Turka explained that operations at the location will remain the same, and that the license  
26 is for retail sales of beer, wine, and cider. Tastings are licensed separately. He confirmed that  
27 all employees are current on required trainings.

28 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer made a motion to approve a 2nd Class Liquor License for Mad River Taste*  
29 *Place. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis, and passed unanimously.*

30 **2. FY 2026 Allocation Request - Mad River Arts.**

31 Ms. Donaldson provided some background information regarding Mad River Arts (MRA), and  
32 outlined some of the community programs that are organized and sponsored by the group. She  
33 explained that, while MRA is currently solvent, financial support is needed to maintain and  
34 expand programming; the group is requesting \$2K from each of the local towns.

35  
36 Ms. Parisi explained that these requests are considered by the Board during budget discussions;  
37 the Board thanked Ms. Donaldson for the information presented.

38  
39 **3. Mad River Valley Ambulance Service MOU.**

40 An in-person report had been provided by MRVAS at a previous meeting, and there was related  
41 information included in this meeting's packet. Ms. Parisi noted that Waitsfield has continued  
42 annual contributions to the Service, following their initial request for municipal support several  
43 years ago, at the rate of \$15K per year. There was a brief discussion of the MOU language,

44 which defines the services offered by MRVAS and obligates the service area towns to provide  
45 donations.

46

47 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer made a motion to approve the MOU between Waitsfield and MRVAS as*  
48 *drafted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis, and passed unanimously.*

49

50 **4. VAST/Meadow Road Bridge waiver request.**

51 A request had been received from VAST for permission to continue to run grooming equipment  
52 over the bridge; the email request indicated that the weight of the equipment is below that of  
53 the new limit on the bridge, and a waiver is not necessary. Ms. Parisi indicated that she will  
54 respond accordingly.

55

56 **5. Neck of the Woods ARPA request.**

57 Betsy Jondro explained that NOW has taken over both staff and children due to the closing of  
58 the Waitsfield Children’s Center, and are seeking to enhance the NOW facilities with an  
59 addition of outdoor gazebos to house portable toilets and changing tables, helping to reduce  
60 the need for additional staffing required to bring children indoors for bathroom facilities. She  
61 confirmed that some ARPA funding had been received previously from Moretown and Warren,  
62 but not specifically for this project.

63

64 Ms. Parisi explained that an updated accounting of ARPA allocations needs to be completed  
65 before committing more than \$10K for this request. Board members also asked that Ms.  
66 Jondro seek additional funding from the other towns whose children are served by NOW’s  
67 programs.

68

69 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer made a motion to allocate \$10K of ARPA funds to NOW for the outdoor*  
70 *toilet structures, and to reconsider an additional allocation once the current ARPA allocations*  
71 *are accounted for. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ursprung, and passed unanimously.*

72

73 **6. Wood and Wood Welcome Sign Proposal.**

74 Information received from Wood and Wood indicated that the existing signs have degraded to  
75 the point where repair is not possible, and a quote of \$8375 was provided for construction and  
76 installation of new signs. It was discussed that ARPA funding would be appropriate for this  
77 expenditure.

78

79 **MOTION:** *Mr. Curtis made a motion to approve the bid from Wood and Wood for new signage,*  
80 *pending confirmation that ARPA funds are available to cover the expense. The motion was*  
81 *seconded by Ms. Ursprung, and passed unanimously.*

82

83 **7. Covered Bridge.**

84 Miles Jenness of VT Heavy Timber was present to provide further information regarding the  
85 quote he had provided for repairing the damage to the covered bridge caused by a recent  
86 accident when a truck drove into the opening. It was noted that Mr. Shupe had submitted a  
87 related insurance claim to PACIF, and the Town has been advised to move forward with repairs.

88

89 Two proposals had been provided by Mr. Jenness: one for completing the repairs necessary to  
90 bring the bridge back to its pre-accident condition, and a second quote for repairing some long-  
91 standing issues such as rotting wood and improper roof panel installation. It was acknowledged  
92 that it would be best to do all the work at the same time, but that insurance coverage would be  
93 limited to repairing damage caused by the accident. Mr. Jenness pointed out that he has  
94 inspected the bridge, and has determined that some of the roof panels over the walkway were  
95 dimpled by the truck striking the bridge opening.

96  
97 The need for an RFP was discussed, and it was determined that, due to the emergency nature  
98 of the situation, insurance coverage paying for the repairs, and ability of VT Heavy Timber to  
99 schedule the repairs immediately, a request for other proposals would not be necessary.

100  
101 There was also a brief discussion regarding the possibility of installing a 'portal bar/barrier' to  
102 help prevent such damage in the future. It was noted that VTTrans has generally been opposed  
103 to these, but that there is one being installed on another VT covered bridge, and it may be  
104 possible to consider one for Waitsfield's bridge.

105  
106 Alice Peal asked that the Board continue with maintaining the Town's covered bridges and  
107 ensure repairs are completed as necessary. Ms. Parisi explained that repairs outside of those  
108 covered by insurance will be discussed during budget development.

109  
110 **MOTION:** *Mr. Messer made a motion to proceed with contracting with VT Heavy Timber to*  
111 *complete the accident-related repairs as outlined, including the roof panels as noted. The*  
112 *motion was seconded by Ms. Ursprung, and passed unanimously.*

## 113 114 **8. Selectboard Roundtable.**

115 Mr. Shupe had provided some notes which were reviewed by Ms. Parisi:

- 116 • A FEMA damage inventory has been submitted
  - 117 ○ Flood damages in addition to the bridge totaled a little over \$90K
- 118 • The MRVPD Steering Committee will be drafting a letter regarding the Health Center  
119 closure

120  
121 Ms. Ursprung noted that she is working on an updated TA job description and that a FEMA on-  
122 site visit is being scheduled.

123  
124 Mr. Messer suggested that the Board develop an ordinance related to vehicle impacts to the  
125 covered bridges in Town.

## 126 127 **8A. Approval of Minutes**

128 The minutes of November 11 were edited and approved.

## 129 130 **9. Consent Agenda.**

131 **APPROVAL:** *The Consent Agenda was approved with no objections or concerns raised.*

- 132  
133 • Bills Payable and Treasurer's Warrants

135 **10. Executive Session.**

136 **MOTION:** *A motion to enter Executive Session pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) [Personnel] passed*  
137 *unanimously.*

138 The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:32 pm and returned to open session at xxx pm.

139

140 **III. Other Business**

141 **1. Correspondence/reports received** were reviewed.

142 **IV. Adjourn**

143 The meeting adjourned at xxx pm.

144 Respectfully submitted,

145 Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary