

WALDEN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2024

Present: Robert Hatch, Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, Debbie Messier and Sabrina Morrison

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

The minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting were approved

Public Comment: Sabrina Morrison introduced herself to the Board. She is the Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives representing Hardwick, Stannard, and Walden.

Road Report: An agreement with Stannard for plowing Walden's portion of the Stannard Mtn. Road, Hutchins Farm Road and Skunk Hollow Road is moving forward. The Stannard Selectboard will discuss conditions at their October 2, 2024 meeting.

The Better Roads Projects have been completed, ditching and berm removal on Cobb Road and culvert replacement on Coles Pond Road. The road crew continues to grade and prepare for winter.

Town Clerk's Report: The Orton Road Bridge replacement process has now been started. Walden will begin an Engineer bid process due to the federal money involved. This will guarantee the project being done in 2025. The office weatherization has been completed. Grant application for heat pumps, electric light upgrades, an office/firehouse generator and a EV Charger has been completed. Awards will be posted October 10, 2024. The Town Auditors are doing their year end review. An outside Audit has been offered but not accepted yet by any available firms. The office will continue to reach out to schedule one.

Budget Development: ARPA funds were redirected from the weatherization project to Calex Ambulance increase of \$ 5,000.00. The office reserve fund will cover any outstanding balance for weatherization. The board and town clerk discussed several small changes to the general budget. There are several items that will require more time to evaluate. The electric line item will be less but was not adjusted yet on either budget. The heating line item should be less but was not adjusted. Further development coming.

Bills, the New Truck Loan Agreement, and three Contractor Contracts were signed.

Submitted by R. Wilson