

Selectboard Minutes
October 28,2025

Present: Paul Kleinman, Chair
Letty Bedard
Andy Artimovich
Jim Michaud
Bob Mantegari

At 6:00pm, Kleinman made a motion to go into nonpublic for personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Michaud. Kleinman – aye; Bedard – aye; Artimovich – aye; Michaud – aye; Mantegari – aye. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At 6:07 the Board came out of nonpublic following a motion by Mantegari, seconded by Michaud; all voted in favor.

At 6:10 Kleinman called the Public meeting to order.

Mantegari motioned to approve the manifest. Michaud seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mantegari motioned to approve the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes, building permits and the recreation manifest. Seconded by Michaud. All in favor; motion carried.

Kleinman notified the Board that an individual had contacted the Town Administrator expressing an interest in purchasing the Town owned property located at 339 Route 125 (208.079.000). Following a discussion, the Board agreed they may be interested in listing the parcel for sale on the open market. Mantegari made a motion to have a market analysis done on the parcel. Motion seconded by Michaud; all voted in favor.

Stevens informed the Board that she spoke with Lisa Cicale, the part time clerk in Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office regarding the opening for a part time bookkeeper. Cicale is interested in the position at the same rate of pay and would continue to work in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office 2 days per week and the Bookkeeper position approximately one day per week. A motion was made by Mantegari to approve the increase in hours for Cicale; seconded by Michaud. All voted in favor.

Wayne Robinson, Road Agent, was in with Jim Hajjar to present the Highway budget. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Road Construction line. Robinson explained that \$350,000 covers 2 miles of road paving. Bedard made a motion to move paving from the Road Construction line and add \$400,000 to a warrant article for Road Construction. Mantegari made a motion to change that amount to \$350,000. Michaud seconded the motion of \$350,000; all voted in favor. Bedard proposed moving \$5,000 of the remaining \$30,000 in the Road Construction line to the Culverts/Basins line. Bedard suggested they discuss the addition of a new highway employee. The consensus was that this be presented as a warrant article. A recommendation was made by Bedard to move \$10,000 from the Mowing Equipment line to Equipment Rental in anticipation of needing to rent a mower next year. Mantegari made a motion to accept the Highway Budget in the amount of \$475,389; seconded by Michaud. All voted in favor.

Robinson and Hajjar presented the budget for Snow & Ice Control. Following discussion about the Sand/Salt/Cold Patch line, Bedard made a motion to drop the line to \$45,000 and investigate encumbering the remainder of the salt contract. Michaud seconded the motion; all in favor. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to accept the revised Snow & Ice Control Budget in the amount of \$97,873. All voted in favor.

Julie Velevis, Recreation Commission Chair, was in with Program Director Jason Gagnon, with an appointment slip to move Laura Hajjar from an alternate position on the Commission to a member. Mantegari made a motion to make the recommended appointment. Motion was seconded by Michaud; all were in favor.

Jason Gagnon presented the Recreation Budget. The Board had a lengthy conversation about whether the vacant Recreation Director position should be full time or part time, including input from Recreation Commission members and residents. In addition, the Board requested an explanation from Gagnon regarding the funding of his position as Program Director. His position was partly funded through a Warrant Article for 2025 and will become part of the operating budget in 2026. The resulting increase in that line item of the budget is the only item affecting the bottom line increase to the Recreation Budget. Artimovich made a motion to approve the Recreation Director position as full time and the budget as presented in the amount of \$137,563. Mantegari seconded the motion; all voted in favor. A Selectboard member along with Jim McIntyre of the Recreation Commission will conduct interviews for the vacant Recreation Director position.

The last Recreation related item brought before the Board by Gagnon was the need for a new furnace for the Recreation Building. Gagnon shared the proposal that the Recreation Commission approved. He is proposing the furnace be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund for Maintenance of Town Owned Buildings. Following a motion by Mantegari to approve of financing the furnace in the amount of up to \$40,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, Bedard seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The Selectboard reviewed the budget for Joint Loss Management Committee. Bedard made a motion to approve the budget in the amount of \$2. The motion was seconded by Artimovich; all voted in favor.

Deputy Fire Chief Olsen was invited to present a preliminary review of the Fire Department Budget. Before starting review of the budget, the Board congratulated all involved in planning Fire Chief Bird's retirement party on a job well done! Discussion of the Fire Department budget commenced. Mantegari stated that he had hoped to see a Fire budget under \$1 million. There was a lengthy discussion regarding staffing and the changes that have been made over the past few years. The Board requested Olsen closely examine his budget, as they will, until he returns for his final budget presentation on 11/18.

Under Old Business, Stevens presented the Board with the MS-1, Summary Inventory of Valuation, completed by the Town Assessor which requires their signatures before submitting to the DRA for tax rate setting. Mantegari made a motion to sign the MS-1. Motion was seconded by Artimovich; all in favor.

Building Inspector Chuck Marsden had provided Stevens with proposed changes to the Fee Schedule for his department to share with the Board. The Board will review and discuss at the next meeting.

Bedard advised the Board that the COLA has been released at 2.8%. Bedard made a motion to adopt the 2.8% COLA for the year 2026. Artimovich made a motion that instead they accept up to a 2.8% merit increase based on performance evaluations. Mantegari seconded the motion. Kleinman, Bedard, Artimovich and Mantegari voted in favor; Michaud opposed. Motion carried.

Committee updates were given including a congratulations to Chief Bird on his retirement.

At 8:52 Kleinman opened public comment.

Melissa Litchfield, Eleanor's Way, had questions regarding the tax rate setting.

Chris Carmody, Crawley Falls Rd resident and President of the Friends of the Library, spoke about comments made at a prior meeting regarding the Friends of the Library. He assured folks that they do not ban books and are indeed a friendly group. They are an independent 501c3 and do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Selectboard.

No one else came forward for Public Comment. At 8:56, Kleinman closed public comment.

At 8:56pm, Michaud made a motion to go into nonpublic for personnel reasons. The motion was seconded by Artimovich. Michaud – aye; Artimovich – aye; Mantegari – aye; Kleinman – aye; Bedard – aye. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens