

Selectboard Minutes

January 20, 2026

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

At 6:00pm Kleinman called the Public meeting to order.

Mantegari motioned to approve the payroll & A/P manifest. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Mantegari motioned to approve the consent agenda conditional upon affirmation from the Planning Board on the Intent to Cut applicants rights. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Michaud thanked all Selectboard members, Town Office staff and residents for their condolences following the death of his mother.

Town Administrator Julie Stevens presented the Board with 2 abatement requests for properties that got billed to the incorrect owner. In addition, there was a supplemental warrant for the same amounts for the corrected owners. Bedard made a motion, seconded by Artimovich, to approve the abatements and supplemental warrant. All voted in favor.

Stefanie Kizza, Planning Board Vice Chair, came before the Board to ask for their support of an application for Plan NH for a charette that will focus on the Commercial Corridors in town. The Planning Board is asking for a letter of support. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to support the application. All voted in favor.

The Board discussed changes to the following budgets:

1. Insurance Benefits: This budget was reopened on 1/6/26 and further discussion was tabled to allow representation from the Library. Mantegari explained that he feels the budget needs to be changed to bring all employees collecting "In Lieu of Insurance" payments in compliance with the Town's Employee Handbook. The Handbook states that this amount will be \$1300 annually. Melody Santos spoke on behalf of the Library Trustees. She relayed to the Selectboard that the Trustees voted in favor of this change to the In Lieu of Insurance line. Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Michaud, to approve a reduction of \$1,400 to the Insurance Benefits budget. All voted in favor.
2. Code Enforcement: Mantegari made a motion to reopen the Code Enforcement budget. Motion seconded by Michaud; all voted in favor. Jim Hajjar of the Budget Committee explained that the budgets approved by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee differ by \$159. In order to get them in alignment, the Selectboard needs to add \$2 (\$1 each for Driveway Inspections and Test Pit Inspections) and the Budget Committee needs to reduce salaries and related lines a total of \$157. Both budgets will then total \$107,933. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to amend the Code Enforcement Budget to \$107,933. All voted in favor.

The Selectboard reviewed the following warrant articles:

Warrant Pertaining to Manual or Automated Waste Collection

1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$24,950) for the continuation of manual collection of Waste and Recyclable Materials. *Per the Contract with Casella Waste Systems, the Town may continue with Manual Waste Collection or convert to Automated Waste Collection. The proposed 2026 Town Budget allocates the cost of Manual Waste and Recyclable Collection for the first 6 months, and Automated Waste and Recyclable Collection for the remaining 6 months. The purpose of this Warrant Article would be to continue with Manual Collection for the entire year.*

(Majority Vote Required)

Bedard made a motion, seconded by Mantegari, to include this warrant article in the Town Warrant. All voted in favor. The Board chose to postpone the vote on whether to recommend or not recommend all articles.

2. The Board postponed a vote on a Warrant Article in the amount of \$160,000 that would add funds to several existing Capital Reserve Funds to give Town Administrator Stevens an opportunity to update balances in those funds as well as revolving accounts.
3. The Board discussed a warrant article to add funds to the existing Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund. In conjunction with that, they discussed a potential warrant article to raise and appropriate funds for the construction of a new Police Complex and the use of bonds or notes to fund that in the amount of \$5.5 million. It was the general feeling of the majority of the Board that this project needs to go out to bid before presenting a figure to the residents for this project. Bedard expressed concern about postponing this warrant article. Michaud recommends that instead, they add \$100,000 to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Municipal Building project. Kleinman recommended \$125,000 be added. Kleinman made a motion, seconded by Mantegari, to include a warrant article to add \$125,000 to the Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund. Kleinman, Artimovich, Mantegari and Michaud voted in favor; Bedard opposed. Motion carried.
4. Mantegari made a motion to approve a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to the existing Highway Vehicles/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.
5. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Mantegari, to approve the inclusion of the warrant article to raise and appropriate \$350,000 for the purpose of road repairs and maintenance. All voted in favor.
6. To see if the Town will vote to establish one new twenty-four (24) hour per-diem position of a Firefighter/EMT for the Brentwood Fire Department, effective April 1, 2026, for an estimated annual wage and other related costs of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Three Dollars (\$225,703.00). This position will provide the recommended staffing for a three-person engine company in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 and OSHA. Such appropriation will support improved emergency response capability and public safety for the Town of Brentwood.

Artimovich recommends including the warrant as the Chief is doing his due diligence and he feels the voters should be allowed to decide. Mantegari does not recommend including the warrant as

this would result in an approximate 50% increase in his budget over the past 2 years. Bedard made a motion to approve the inclusion of the warrant article, Artimovich seconded it. Bedard and Artimovich were in favor; Mantegari, Michaud and Kleinman opposed. Motion failed.

7. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Prevention/Inspection Revolving Fund from the fire inspection fees. The purpose of this fund is to offset the cost of the Fire Prevention/Inspector position and to expand inspection hours from eight (8) per week to sixteen (16) or twenty-four (24) per week. This increase aims to improve customer service and enable more days of inspections. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Mantegari, to approve the warrant article. All voted in favor.
8. Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Bedard, to approve the warrant article to add \$8,500 to the Master Plan Expendable Trust Fund. All voted in favor.
9. Bedard made a motion to include the warrant article for the construction of the Police Complex as discussed in #3 above. Nobody seconded the motion.
10. Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Michaud, to approve the inclusion of a warrant article that would increase the tax credit for service-connected permanent and total disability from \$2,000 to \$2,750. All voted in favor.
11. A motion was made by Mantegari, seconded by Michaud, to include a warrant article that increases the elderly exemption for qualified taxpayers to: \$200,000 for a person 65 years of age to 75 years; \$250,000 for 75 years of age to 80 years; \$300,000 for a person 80 years of age or older. All voted in favor.
12. Mantegari made a motion to include a warrant article to increase the Disabled exemption for qualified taxpayers to \$155,000. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Julie Stevens gave a quick recap of the meeting that she and Kleinman attended, along with the Town Assessor, between KRT (who did the property revaluations) and the DRA. Mantegari made a motion to release the \$30,000 payment to KRT and have the funds come from Capital Reserve Fund. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The Board members shared Committee updates and Old Business.

- Michaud thanked the Highway Dept for doing such a good job with plowing while they've been short staffed. He also added that Chet passed his first test in the accreditation classes.
- Kleinman gave a shout out to Emma Laham of the Conservation Commission for doing such a fabulous job on the creation of a Passport Program for the Town Trails and her work on the town clean-up that will take place in the Spring. Regarding Planning Board, they had a Public Hearing regarding the amendments that will be presented on the ballot. They did vote to change the multi-family ordinance in commercial zones such that 50% of the ground floor will need to be used for retail.
- Mantegari passed along that the Recreation Commission meets next week. He also stated that he received an inquiry from a resident asking if road paving could be paved from Impact Fees. Bedard responded that we do not have impact fees for roads. That would need to be included in the allocation made through the Planning Board.
- Artimovich asked if the Economic Development Committee is still active as they may want to be involved with the development of the retail spaces that would come from the new Planning Board ordinance.

Dexter Swasey of the Historical Society was in to request an allocation of funds from the Municipal Building Maintenance Fund to support a grant they are in the process of applying for. They would be

looking for \$20,000 to use as matching funds for the grant to address the structural support issues in the basement and repairing of sills. Swasey reviewed the criteria required by NH Preservation Alliance for the grant. Bedard made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to support the expenditure up to \$10,000. All voted in favor.

Stevens notified the Board that she received Emergency Management Director Richard Murphy's resignation. She added that Murphy had reached out to the assistant EM Director to see if he'd be interested in the position and he said no. Stevens has reached out to McFarland to see if he is willing to be Acting Director until a replacement is found but has not yet heard back from him. Bedard asked if he'd be willing to help with the Seabrook Drill coming up in 2 weeks. Artimovich suggested reaching out to Chief Olson to see if he's interested and to former Chief Bird to see if he'd be willing to help with the drill. The position will get posted.

At 8:19pm Kleinman opened public comment. There was none.

Stevens presented a contract from Cartographic Associates for professional mapping services. The \$3,300 cost is already built into the budget. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to sign the contract. All voted in favor.

At 8:20, a motion to adjourn was made by Mantegari and seconded by Artimovich. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens