

Selectboard Minutes
March 31, 2026

Present: Robert Mantegari
Jim Michaud
Letty Bedard
Paul Kleinman
David Menter

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

Following the reading of payroll and accounts payable, the Board signed the manifest for both. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Kleinman, to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor. Mantegari read the Treasurer's Report. A request was made to include the Revolving Account totals on the report as well. Town Administrator Stevens will notify the Treasurer.

The swearing-in of a new police officer scheduled for this evening was postponed.

Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector thanked several individuals for their help during the elections and Town Meeting. Woss commented that she and the others were there until 10:30pm on election night due to the number of write-ins. She would like all voters to understand that every write-in vote needs to be reviewed. Woss asked that voters consider how much of her and the volunteers' time is getting wasted when writing-in ridiculous candidates like "Be Happy" or "Hitler". The next election is the State Primary in September. The Board thanked Woss for a smooth election and Town Meeting.

Michaud read a letter of thanks from the Selectboard to Brentwood Officers Giroux and O'Neill for their actions during an incident of a wrong-way driver on Route 101 last week.

Chief Murch was in at the request of the Selectboard to answer questions from Selectboard Member Bedard regarding his recent post on Facebook about not sending his officers to trainings where they will be subject to recruitment by other departments. Murch explained that it's not that he's not sending his officers to any trainings, just not to locations where they're open to "poaching". He continued that training for his agency is very important to him and, the Town and he are only trying to protect the town's investment in these officers by retaining them. Murch plans to do this by continuing their training, not exposing them to persuasive recruitment tactics, offering competitive pay and by creating an environment that they want to work in. Ched Miller of Dudley Road commented that he is very pleased Chief Murch is here.

George Koch was in attendance to discuss a possible volunteer project he is interested in for the Town of Brentwood. It would involve digitizing files, making documents readily available to the public and looking at other towns and how they handle these issues. He would also want to look at the items in the vault to make sure we're in compliance with regulations regarding record retention. The Board made mention that there is a Records Committee. Koch said he would be interested in revitalizing that. Koch said he is looking to the Board for guidance on how to go about all of this. The Board said they will need time to discuss this and come up with a plan to move forward.

Stevens asked the Board how they would like to handle the performance-based pay increases that were budgeted to begin on 4/1. She had previously sent out to the Board the forms used for evaluations in the past and inquired if that is what they would like departments to continue to use. Bedard suggested that we give all eligible employees the 2.8% increase. Mantegari suggested that some Department Heads may want to give particular employees more than the 2.8%, and others less than the 2.8%. The total dollar amount just can't exceed the budgeted 2.8%. The Board would like to see performance evaluations for all employees, including those that were not budgeted for an increase. Ched Miller circulated a Merit Matrix as an example of what the Town could use for determining increases. The Board would like the recommended increases for the next meeting, with or without the evaluations being completed.

The Board has received copies of the Selectboard Operational Guidelines & Handbook. Mantegari asked all members to review the handbook and be prepared to discuss any recommended changes or additions at the 4/21 meeting. Mantegari shared some changes that he's recommending. Bedard read the proposed revisions. Bedard referenced the section called "Agenda" that appears to differ from item #1 in the Selectboard Chair Duties and recommends those be better aligned. Mantegari suggested that be an item of discussion at the 4/21 meeting.

A few weeks ago the Board tabled a vote on the abatement recommendation for 5 Balsam Lane in order to get more information. Stevens shared correspondence our assessor received from a representative of The Housing Partnership regarding the calculations used in the recommendation. There is a definite discrepancy between the data shared. The Board asked Stevens to reach out to KRT to ask them to review their recommendation based on this data. In addition, the Board would like them to review the evaluations of all properties subject to a work force housing market value limitation.

Mantegari opened discussion to old business & regular business.

- Bedard asked if the Selectboard wanted to formally create a trash committee. Mantegari responded that this was a committee created by the Budget Committee. Jim Hajjar, Chair of the Budget Committee, said "Trash Talks" is a sub-team of the Budget Committee and they make recommendations to the Selectboard. Bedard said she just wants to make sure the public is aware of the committee and when they meet. She continued that it would be helpful if these meetings were posted on the website and/or in the newsletter. Hajjar responded that they are just an advisory team, not an official committee.
- Bedard inquired about 2025 expenditures. Stevens responded that the 2025 audit is scheduled for June 22-26 and we will have all the necessary information ready for them when they arrive.
- Stevens passed out the YTD expenditures for 2026. Bedard asked how she should ask questions about this, by email or during the meeting. Mantegari responded that they can be sent to him and copied to Stevens and a response will be given.
- Mantegari mentioned, in reply to an email inquiry from Bedard regarding a cardboard dumpster, that since the Town voted to stay with manual collection of rubbish and recycling, there is no need to incur the cost of a cardboard dumpster at the Highway Shed. Bedard asked that any information Stevens has about a cardboard dumpster be sent to the trash committee and find out what revenue we get for recycling.
- Mantegari read a letter from Jeff Bryan regarding the wooden bridge between Brentwood & Exeter. He said that the asphalt on the bridge is cracked and needs to be fixed. The Board asked Stevens to reach out to the Road Agent.

- Stevens shared a photo of the Welcome to Brentwood sign which showed that it is definitely showing wear and tear. Michaud said he will take care of it.

Mantegari asked for committee updates.

- Kleinman will be unable to attend the upcoming Planning Board meeting. Mantegari said he is willing to attend. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Menter, to appoint Mantegari as the alternate to the Planning Board. Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor; Mantegari abstained. Motion carried.
- Menter said the Conservation Commission had a roundtable last week that was very successful. The next meeting is 4/8.
- Michaud commented that New England Dragway opens on 4/1.

Mantegari opened the floor to public comment:

- Doug Marino thanked the Selectboard and everyone else who supported the Planning Board Zoning Amendments. Mantegari said what a great job the Planning Board did getting the word out. Kleinman added that Kristin Aldred did an incredible job as Planning Board Chair.

At 8:00pm, Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to go into nonpublic per 91-A:3II (b), (c), & (d). Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

At 9:08, Michaud made a motion to come out of nonpublic session. Menter seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Kleinman, to seal the minutes. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

At 9:10pm, Mantegari made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michaud. Mantegari, Michaud, Kleinman, Bedard and Menter voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Stevens



Date: **March 31, 2026**

TD Bank General Fund:

Bank Balance as at: **03/31/2026** **\$ 1,997,234.27**

Committed Expenditures: 03/31/2026

Current AP: (75,459.27)
 Current Payroll: (36,955.02)
 Current FICA Taxes: (8,409.52)
 NHRS:
 Swasey:
 COOP:
 County Payment:
 Outstanding AP: (87,791.93)
 Non-A/P:
 Transfers to Impact Fees: _____ -

Total Committed Expenditures: **\$ (208,615.74)**

General Fund Operating Ending Cash Balance: **\$ 1,788,618.53**

Invested Funds **\$3,000,000.00**

Total General Fund Cash Balance **\$4,788,618.53**

Investments

TD Bank Interest Earned YTD:

\$15,771.97

| CD's: | Total Invested | Matured/Redeemed | Potential Yield |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 25 Day; 3.24%APR | \$1,500,000.00 | \$1,500,000.00 | \$ 3,328.77 |
| 53 Day; 3.27%APR | \$1,500,000.00 | \$1,500,000.00 | \$ 7,122.33 |
| 85 Day; 3.31%APR | \$1,500,000.00 | | \$ 11,562.33 |
| 85 Day; 3.31%APR | \$1,500,000.00 | | \$ 11,562.33 |
| | <u>\$6,000,000.00</u> | <u>\$3,000,000.00</u> | <u>\$ 33,575.75</u> |

Ambrose Kizza, Treasurer