

Selectboard Minutes

April 28, 2026

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

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

Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to allow Board member Kleinman to attend remotely due to family travel. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, and Menter voted in favor. Motion passed.

Following the reading of payroll and accounts payable, Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard and Menter signed the manifests.

Michaud made a motion, with a second by Menter, to approve the Public Minutes from 4/21/26. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman & Menter voted in favor. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Menter, to approve the nonpublic minutes of 4/14/26. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard & Menter voted in favor; Kleinman abstained.

Mantegari read aloud the Treasurer's report.

Mantegari asked Town Administrator Stevens to scan the Rockingham County Budget document that was received and send it to all Board members as well as the Budget Committee.

Fire Chief Olson explained the presented pay matrix to the Board. He said it is an adjustable document based on the percent pay increase that gets voted in each year. He added that it is a good recruitment tool. It allows for movement on the scale based on certification and years of service. Mantegari made a motion to approve the pay scale and the Fire Department pay increases that were presented, other than that for Chief Olson, per contract. Michaud seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Metner voted in favor.

Chief Olson requested permission to purchase a poly-tank for the new Forestry Truck. He received 4 quotes and recommends accepting the one from CET of Canada. A motion was made by Mantegari and seconded by Michaud to approve the purchase from CET and allow payment of up to \$25,000 from Impact Fees. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Lastly Olson mentioned that he'd like to update their permit fee schedule. He inquired if the Board would like to approve those once he has his recommendations complete. The Selectboard responded that they would like to review and vote on it.

Town Administrator Stevens reviewed a number of abatement requests that KRT recommended be denied by the Board:

- Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to deny the request for 10 Rousseau Lane. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman & Menter voted in favor of the denial.
- Kleinman made a motion to deny the abatement request for 26 Lake Road. Bedard seconded the motion; Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

- A motion was made by Menter and seconded by Michaud to deny the request for 41 Prescott Road. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Several other abatement requests were reviewed. These were all recommended for denial of the abatement, but recommended the assessments be decreased by KRT. Bedard asked if KRT would be sending out letters to these homeowners letting them know of their lowered assessment. Stevens said she will find out. Michaud made a motion to deny the abatements for all but to move forward with the decreased assessments. Menter seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Bedard asked if KRT had responded to the Board's request to reconsider the abatement for a property subject to a workforce housing covenant, as well as review all properties in a similar situation. Stevens responded that neither she nor the assessor has heard back. She will reach out to KRT and ask for an update.

Stevens explained to the Board members that she and Chief Murch have been discussing the possibility of utilizing Community Projects Services through the Rockingham County Jail. This program allows for inmates to do some work in communities, accompanied by a Corrections Officer, at no pay other than the cost of materials and lunch. She and Chief Murch have identified projects such as painting in the Town Office and PD; pressure washing the building; sweeping/blowing the parking areas at the Town Office/PD and repainting the lines and lettering; painting the bulletin board out front and railing at the stairway; installing a window in one of the PD offices; and insulating the Highway Shed. A motion was made by Michaud and seconded by Menter to approve moving forward with this service. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

The Board reviewed several proposed changes to the Selectboard Operational Guidelines & Handbook. Bedard pointed out that Section V of Appendix B would also need to be brought into alignment with the recommended change regarding agendas. Mantegari read aloud the proposed changes from Kleinman to the Remote Participation section. Mantegari recommended adding the Board Chair to the notification requirements if requesting approval of remote participation. Further discussion regarding this change ensued. Changes to Selectboard's Code of Conduct were reviewed. Bedard asked for clarification of "appropriate attire". Mantegari gave "Business Casual" as an example of "appropriate attire". Kleinman didn't think we really need to get into specifics. It was agreed to just use common sense. Bedard asked if a doctor's note is required in reference to no food being allowed unless medically necessary. Mantegari explained he added that because he is a diabetic and he occasionally may need to snack on something if his sugar gets low. Mantegari asked that Section II – Regular Meetings - be revised to reflect the current plan to change to every-other-week meetings from Memorial Day to Labor Day, rather than the former schedule of April through August. These changes will be drafted by Stevens and brought to the Board next week for voting, along with the others presented at tonight's meeting.

Mantegari asked for Committee updates:

- Michaud said the PD Drug Take-Back program that took place over the prior weekend was very successful. He thanked Chief Murch for replacing the plexi-glass on the bulletin board in the loop at the Town Office. The PD is working on outfitting the motorcycle. Moving on to Highway Department, he commented that he suggested to Robinson that they do a thorough cleaning of the equipment now that winter is behind us; this has been completed. The Highway Dept is addressing road clean-up of several town roads. They worked on Dalton Road today and it looks great. Lastly he mentioned that NE Dragway is up and running. There have been no incidents.
- Kleinman said that Recreation Commission finalized the revised by-laws. They are circulating them one last time before bringing them before the Board. Rec is also working on the July 4th

parade and a 60s and 70s night. Planning Board is changing its meetings for the month of May only to 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

- Menter advised that the Conservation Commission meets again on 5/13. Dam Ventures will be there as a follow up to their meeting with the Selectboard a couple months ago. The town-wide clean up day was a success.
- Bedard reported that the school board's next meeting is next Monday.
- Mantegari mentioned that the Budget Committee's next meeting is 5/11 at 6pm.

Stevens announced that Emergency Director Jeff Gardner is proposing the appointment of Charles Fitzgerald as the Deputy. Fitzgerald's resume had been circulated to the Board members. Bedard made a motion to approve Fitzgerald as the Deputy. Michaud seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Mantegari opened the floor to public discussion:

- Liz Faria of South Road commented that if every family in town would just pick up 1 bag of trash on their road in the spring and fall, we could keep the Town clean.

At 7:50pm, Mantegari made a motion to go into nonpublic per RSA 91A:3II (e). Michaud seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

At 8:42pm, a motion was made by Mantegari and seconded by Kleinman to come out of nonpublic. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Bedard, to seal the minutes. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

At 8:30, Mantegari made a motion, with a second from Michaud, to adjourn. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens