

## Selectboard Minutes

May 19, 2026

Present: Robert Mantegari, Chair  
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, Mantegari made a motion to sign this week's manifest and a revised one from the prior week with the addition of one payroll check. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to approve Linda Lambert as the new Treasurer. All voted in favor. Lambert asked the Board to allow her one more week to get a handle on the Treasurer's Report before presenting it publicly to them. They agreed.

Rob Wofchuck, Chair of the Conservation Committee, came before the Board to discuss the Conservation Easement on the Slye property on Middle Road. Wofchuck explained that his goal is to present this proposal to the Board in hopes of getting approval to use the Open Space Bond to pay for the easement. He added that the Conservation Commission held a public hearing last week during which the Commission approved moving forward with this easement and utilizing the Open Space Bond for funding. He went through the details of the 55+/- acres that would be in conservation, including its high ranking on their internal ranking list. The expenses associated with the project are roughly \$387,000. SELT has identified at least 3 grants they believe they have a good chance of getting that would amount to \$55,000. Wofchuck said at this point it would be prudent to plan on the \$387,000 not knowing if they will get the grants. Wofchuck expects this will close in the middle of next year and the first payment would be early 2028. He reviewed the current status and expiration dates of outstanding bonds and explained that this bond will fit within the Town's Tax Cap. The Slye's have signed a Purchase & Sales agreement with SELT. He is asking the Selectboard to approve the Open Space Bond and a funding agreement to accept the budget as presented. Michaud made a motion, seconded by Menter, to sign the agreement. All voted in favor. Bedard made a motion to pay for the easement using the Open Space Bond. Mantegari seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Stevens presented a proposed electronic payroll form that would be used by employees for submitting their weekly payroll. The Fire Department and Police Department would continue to use their forms as they have several pay codes on them that are not relevant to other departments. Michaud made a motion to approve the payroll form with the addition of a space for Supervisor approval. Following a second by Menter, all voted in favor.

Mantegari updated the Board on the Town Administrator position. Interviews are still underway. Two took place last week and there is one this week. We are still waiting to schedule one other. Recreation applicants have started responding. Nick's last day will be 6/1/26.

Stevens provided an update to the 2024 audit. She and Mantegari met with them today. There are 4 open items that must be completed by 6/5: ARPA Funds, Encumbrances, Impact Fees and the Ambulance Fund. Mantegari shared that the auditors are down to \$79,000+ left to reconcile.

A majority of the Selectboard signed the Tax Warrant on 5/14/26 in the amount of \$10,461,156. The bills went out yesterday and tax payments are due 7/1.

Chief Murch informed the Board that last Friday he entered into an agreement with the Federal Ice Program. His officers will receive 40 hours of on-line training to learn the required procedures. He continued that this mutual aid agreement, 287g, will allow his officers to deal with individuals encountered during a motor vehicle stop that have an ICE warrant. He stressed that they are not kicking in doors. Murch said there are currently 30 other communities that have signed the agreement. He said he did it for Brentwood as he didn't want to prevent his officers from doing their job. Bedard asked Murch if he could provide them with a copy of the agreement. He responded that he will contact ICE about that. A couple residents had questions related to the signing of the agreement:

- Betsy Ibbitson asked if this has been a problem on Rte 125 where we've had to let individuals go? Murch replied that prior to him arriving in Brentwood, there was an incident where a motor vehicle was stopped and an individual in the vehicle was identified as having an ICE warrant and they had to let him go.
- Eric Turer of Peabody Drive said he's been involved with these agreements at a County level. He said he was surprised to hear that the Chief had signed this agreement. He learned about it through social media when residents asked him if it was true. Turer continued that he is aware of RSA 106P that does not allow towns to interfere or prevent local law enforcement from entering into these 287g agreements. He is not questioning the Chief's authority to sign the agreement, he is simply stating that he believes there should have been some public discussion first. He added that there are resource, liability and expense concerns. The Sheriff's department entered into the 287g agreement but they wrote a policy that stated that they were declining most of the authorities in the agreement and if asked to do any of those things, they would decline to participate. He thought what they did was quite unique and quite proactive and places them outside of the instances that we have seen in the news lately. He wrapped up with a few questions:
  1. He asked the Selectboard if they have seen the agreement? They responded "no".
  2. Did anyone at the table have any conversation about this beforehand? Mantegari said he learned about it after it was signed. Kleinman said he learned about it after it was signed and had a good conversation with the Chief and that provided him with a better understanding of why he chose to sign it.
  3. Turer asked if the Board wishes the Chief had discussed it with them before signing? Mantegari & Kleinman responded that while it would have been nice to have that discussion, they trust the Chief's judgment and would not interfere.
  4. He asked the Chief if there were any grants or compensations for expenses related to the agreement? The Chief responded that overtime and transportation time is reimbursed by ICE. There are also some grant funds available. If they do end up with an ICE detainee, they could get up to \$100,000 and \$7,500 for each trained officer. He added that he was not deliberately hiding anything; he just made what he thought was the best decision for the town and his department. He is always open to discussions with people at any time but stands by his belief that it is the best thing for his department.
- Doug Marino, 26 Mill Pond Road, thanked Chief Murch for being there to answer questions. He did express his disappointment in not having a public discussion prior to the signing. He questioned if the residents really want this.
- Selectboard member Bedard asked the Chief to clarify the compensation for training, overtime and transportation. He responded that it is only for expenses resulting from the activities related to an actual incident.

- Jim Hajjar of Mohawk Lane commented that he has seen a noticeable difference in our Police Dept since Chief Murch was hired and values his community policing. He trusts the Chief and if he believes it's the best thing to do, he supports it.

Mantegari opened discussion of Old Business:

- Bedard inquired about departments getting access to MTS to view their budgets and related reports. Stevens responded that some departments have been trained and we can reach out to others and see if they are interested. If so, we will get the training scheduled.
- Stevens presented a copy of the revised Selectboard Handbook containing the changes that were recently voted in and asked for signatures from the Board.
- Bedard mentioned that there was discussion about impact fees at the last Planning Board meeting and she has some concerns about the payments, timing of collection and the tracking. Marino, speaking as a Planning Board member, said he believes there's a disparity between State Law and our ordinance relating to the timing of collection. He said it would be good to get these in alignment. Kleinman said we can look into this. Bedard questioned whether or not the Board approved, or needed to approve, the impact fee schedule when it was last updated in 2022. In order to have a vote in the official record, Mantegari made a motion to approve the current fee schedule. Michaud seconded the motion; all voted in favor. As far as Bedard's other concerns, Mantegari responded that Stevens will be working on impact fees over the next couple weeks as it was one of the items on the auditors list in order to complete 2024. We'll see if there are still questions when she is done.

Mantegari asked for Committee updates:

- Michaud updated on a number of items:
  1. Paving has been taking place on Pickpocket Road
  2. Registration deadline for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade is 6/1.
  3. Engine one is back but the tanker is out for service and decal issues, and gauges.
  4. The Forestry truck has been painted and they are looking for used radios.
  5. Highway Dept truck is back and it only needed minor repairs.
- Kleinman provided a summary of the Planning Board meeting discussion: Impact Fees, Sig Sauer's application for expansion, Peter Garisi is working on a 6000' building addition on Rte 125.
- Menter made mention that, as discussed, there was a Conservation public hearing on the Slye property.
- Mantegari reminded all that the Memorial Day Service is at 8am on Monday at the Tonry Cemetery. Bedard agreed to read In Flanders Fields. Mantegari also reminded everyone the Selectboard will be starting its summer schedule and will not meet next week. The next meeting will be 6/2.

Mantegari opened the floor to public discussion to which there was none.

At 8:10, Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Michaud, to go into nonpublic session per 91-A:3II(a) & (c). All voted in favor.

At 8:50pm, a motion was made by Michaud and seconded by Mantegari to come out of nonpublic. All voted in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Michaud, to seal the minutes. Bedard expressed that she feels the nonpublic minutes should be written more generally, not using names. Stevens expressed that she had a recent information inquiry regarding a prior employee and when searching through the minutes

came across a discussion that she believes was related to that matter but since there was no name listed, she can't be certain. Therefore, she feels it is important to have the names available. Other Board members agreed. Discussion was closed. All voted in favor of sealing the minutes.

At 8:55pm, Mantegari made a motion, with a second from Michaud, to adjourn. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens