

Selectboard Minutes
August 18, 2026

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

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

Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Kleinman, to allow Board member Michaud to attend the meeting remotely. Mantegari, Kleinman, Bedard & Menter voted in favor.

Following the reading of payroll and accounts payable, Kleinman made a motion to sign this week's manifest. Menter seconded the motion; Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman & Menter voted in favor.

The Board reviewed 2 Yield Tax Assessments. Kleinman made a motion, seconded by Menter, to approve the assessments. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Regarding the 8/4/2026 minutes, Bedard asked that the following edits be made: that her vote in opposition of the payroll/AP manifest was because she had not had an opportunity to review those documents; and that it be clarified that it was the PD Employment Agreement that was discussed. Mantegari made a motion to approve the 8/4/26 minutes as amended. Kleinman seconded the motion. Mantegari, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor; Michaud abstained.

Treasurer Lambert read the Treasurer's Report. She updated the Board that the funds from the 2 PD accounts that were voted for closure have been paid to the Brentwood Police Association for National Night Out. She also advised that over \$1 million is in the credit card account that needs to be moved to the general fund. Lambert explained that this is money from credit card payments for property tax payments, auto registrations, etc. She is currently working on that. Lastly, Lambert gave an update on a couple of revolving accounts: she has requested the bank open a new revolving account for solar proceeds, as voted at the 2024 town meeting; the fire inspection revolving account has been established and she will be moving the appropriate proceeds to that account in the next week, as well as the emergency management fund.

The Morton Salt contract was presented to the Board. Bedard made a motion, with a second by Kleinman, to approve the contract. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Road Agent Robinson asked if we could post openings for a couple of plow operators. Bedard made a motion to post the openings, seconded by Mantegari. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Heather Hagget, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, read a statement on behalf of Daphne Woss thanking the Fire Department, especially Trevor Whitby, for the recent AED/CPR training of the Town Office staff.

Bedard made a motion to approve the signing of 9 Inspector Election Appointment Slips. Menter seconded the motion; Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Fremont EMS proposed contract. Mantegari explained that the subcommittee met and there is a list of questions resulting from that. He is looking for the Board's approval to send these questions off to legal counsel. Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Kleinman, to allow these to be sent to counsel. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Mantegari mentioned that we just received the Draft Audit for 2024. Kleinman inquired if Plodzik would be able to review their findings in person. Mantegari stated that we need to address the material weaknesses. Mantegari made a motion to ask Plodzik if they will come meet with the Board and if there would be an expense associated with this. Kleinman seconded the motion. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Kleinman pointed out that there is no indication in the Draft of there being missing money or any malfeasance.

The Board reviewed a contract for MRI to continue to work on the reconciliation of the general fund for 2025. The Board tabled their discussion as they have more questions.

There was an initial discussion regarding the 2027 Budget Process. Mantegari mentioned that TA Sue Yerkes has reached out to department heads asking them to start looking at their budgets for next year. Stevens mentioned that the department heads are getting trained on the MRI budgeting module next week. Budget Committee Chair Hajjar encouraged the Board to hold off on reviewing and finalizing budgets until we have the COLA/merit increase amounts agreed upon.

Bedard inquired if she could have access to MRI to review all department's expenses. Stevens said that is a decision of the Board. Hajjar added that he has asked for the same access. Stevens said currently the department heads have access to their department's budget and expenses, the TA and the Assistant to the TA have full access, and reports are printed for the Board at the end of each month. Bedard asked for an explanation as to why she should be denied access. Stevens responded that having been in the TA's office for a while, she fears that it would result in that office and other Department Heads being micro-managed and having every entry questioned. Mantegari agreed that he does not want to make it an uncomfortable work environment for departments. Michaud made a motion to leave it the way it is. Treasurer Lambert asked that the Board revisit allowing more access in about 6 months because all the corrections that are being worked on now are time-consuming enough without adding in interruptions with questioning by others. Menter seconded the previous motion made by Michaud. Kleinman & Bedard were opposed. Mantegari said he would be in favor of it as long as they revisit consideration in 3 months. The Board agreed to table the request for 3 months.

Mantegari reviewed bids that the Parks & recreation commission received for an irrigation system for the back field that ranged from \$27,407.75 to \$119,451.88. The commission agreed upon a bid for \$36,900 and asked for the Selectboard's approval. Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Kleinman, to approve the \$36,900 which will be paid from impact fees. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor. Kleinman commended Jason Gagnon on his handling of the bid process.

Stevens explained that there were some payroll tax payments from the end of 2024 into April of 2025 that were never released and therefore not received by the IRS. The result is penalties/interest charges of approximately \$29,000. She would like some guidance as to what line the Board would like these expenses posted to. Kleinman made a motion, with a second by Menter, to pay from the miscellaneous

expense line of the General Government budget. Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

Mantegari asked for Committee updates:

- Mantegari attended the Planning Board meeting. They are dealing with a commercial condo that is in violation of their site plan. The issue will need to go to the ZBA.
- Kleinman updated on softball play-offs.
- Menter said the Conservation Commission has several members whose term has expired. They will be sending their recommendations for appointments to the Board for voting. They are also in need of an alternate and would like that posted. Their next meeting is 9/9.
- Bedard mentioned that there has been a resignation by a school board member and the position needs to be filled. The term would run to the next election.
The Library Trustees are looking for someone to apply epoxy to the basement floor.
- Stevens mentioned that the leak in Daphne's office needs to be repaired before winter. Mantegari suggested the Sheriff's department work release program help with this or get some estimates from other roofing companies.

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

At 8:06pm, Mantegari made a motion, with a second by Kleinman, to go into nonpublic session per 91-A:3II(a, b). Mantegari, Michaud, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

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

Mantegari made a motion, seconded by Kleinman, to seal the minutes. Mantegari, Bedard, Kleinman and Menter voted in favor.

At 8:42pm, Mantegari made a motion, with a second from Menter, to adjourn. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stevens