

# SANDGATE VERMONT SELECTBOARD MINUTES - FEBRUARY 16, 2026

**Call to order: 6:05 pm**

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members: Linda Schmidt, Joe Nolan, Rob Viglas with John Phelps joining via phone. Also present: Jessica Lewis Stevens, Phyllis Skidmore, and Lalla Pero;  
Minute taker: Jessica Lewis Stevens

## **Citizen Concerns:**

Phyllis inquires as to whether it would be amenable to the Board to convene church in the Town Hall while the church is under construction, including using the lister's office for Sunday school. Selectboard agrees unanimously to allow the church to meet in the Town Hall.

## **Municipal Energy Resilience Project (MERP) update:**

Tom Yandow was called to discuss the letter of intent and moving forward on the town hall window project. Joe inquires as to whether there is a rough timeline for the project to start, Tom states the windows are 8-10 weeks out and project would not begin until windows are in. Joe signs the letter of intent and it will be scanned and sent back to Tom to return to the contractor. The contractor has reduced the bid by \$1,000 in response to Selectboard negotiation.

Jason Hill was notified that the Selectboard had voted to go with Farrington Construction, Jason asked the amount of the winning bid (\$28,013). Tom suggested he listen to the audio of the Selectboard meeting to see how they arrived at the decision to hire Farrington. Tom states this project being a larger window project is still best suited for a larger-firm contractor but suggests and Selectboard agrees there may be other projects well-suited for Jason's services.

Joe also had a conversation with Jason in which he reiterated the funding coming from a grant required adherence to the bid deadline and insurance concerns.

## **Planning for resignation of the Town Clerk/Treasurer:**

Linda requested today a specific date of resignation and Sandy has given February 20th. Jessica Stevens will take over as Town Clerk and Treasurer after this time. Jessica can be appointed officially as of Friday February 20. A special meeting will need to be warned appropriately on the website and in person. Linda will ask Sandy to warn the meeting for 6pm Friday the 20th.

John inquires as to how to add a new name as a signer on the bank account. Jessica's name will need to be added and the bank requires minutes reflecting that the selectboard has voted to make her a signer. Linda motions to make Jessica an official signer as the Assistant Treasurer; Rob seconds; all in favor.

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Linda inquires about Election Day readiness. Linda suggests Julie Robertson as a point person to coordinate poll sitters. Nancy Tschorn has volunteered to poll-sit. Phyllis also volunteers to poll-sit, as well as to count votes. Joe will reach out to Robin Wilcox to see if she can help with training Jessica, especially in regards to Election Day proceedings to meet state standards.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda states the Solid Waste Alliance is 42% over budget for this year. Our piece of this bill will go up about \$700. She will attend a BCSWA meeting Wednesday to discuss these details.

**Road Report:** Joe states the Highway Department's new truck will be here within the next two weeks. Salt has been delivered and it may be the last delivery for the year due to salt shortage.

**Review of minutes** from February 2 and 6 meetings. Joe motions to pass both. Rob seconds; all in favor.

**Old Business:** Joe suggests asking Sheila to send vault storage information to Jessica to resolve and order the required equipment.

**Selectman's Orders:** Rob expresses concern for paying Town Clerk and Treasurer full salary for the month of February. Orders cannot be signed until adjusted and pro-rated to reflect missed Selectboard meetings earlier in the month and the last week of February she will not serve as Town Clerk and Treasurer.

The Board calculates a February salary amount for Sandy based on taking out the final week of salary for both the Town Clerk and Treasurer, and additionally 4 hours of Clerk pay for two missed Selectboard meetings. Linda amends the Order.

Rob motions to adjourn; Joe seconds. Meeting adjourned 7:06pm

**Next Meeting:** Friday February 20, 2026 at 6pm at Town Hall.

*Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lewis Stevens*

*A complete recording is available by request at Sandgate Town Hall.*