

SANDGATE, VERMONT SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES—MARCH 4, 2026

Call to Order: 6:10pm

Attendance: Joe Nolan, Linda Schmidt, John Phelps, Rob Viglas

Also in attendance: Jessica Pendleton, Jessica Lewis Stevens. Minute Taker: Jessica Lewis Stevens

No citizen concerns.

Discussion of Election Results: The Board realized after counting was completed Tuesday night that there was an error in the instructions in the Selectboard 1-year term slot on the ballot. It instructed the voter to make 3 choices when only two slots were available. Jessica Lewis Stevens spoke with the Elections Division at the Secretary of State's Office who directed us to contact our lawyer for further advice. Linda Schmidt spoke with Merrill Bent, Town Attorney, who directed us to 17V.S.A 2682 part C:

"In a municipal election controlled by this subchapter, the person receiving the greatest number of votes for an office shall be declared elected to that office and a certificate of election need not be issued."

John Phelps and Rob Viglas received the most votes in this race and their election was confirmed.

Oath of Office signed by Jessica Pendleton, John Phelps, Rob Viglas

Confirm Appointed Town Officers

911 Address: Jay Wilson and Jessica Lewis Stevens

Wuerslin Grant: No changes

BCRC: No changes

ISWAP: Selectboard; Jessica Pendleton has offered to sit for meetings when available

Conservation Commission: No changes

Emergency Fuel Coordinator: Selectboard

Emergency Management Coordinator: Bill Mitchell

Fence Viewer: No changes

Fire Warden: No changes

Green-Up Day coordinators: suggestions- Pat Hall, Julie Robertson

Inspector of Lumber: No changes

Zoning and Planning commission: Richard Zoppel (chair), Jack Blanford, Dan Reap, Rob Viglas, James Aschmann; alternates: Brad Kessler, Jean Eisenhart

Poundkeepers: No changes

Town service officer: check with Karen Tendrup for first right of refusal

Tree Warden: No changes

Zoning Administrator: Sheila Kearns

Road Report: new snowplow has been purchased for \$5000

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Review of 2/16 and 2/20 minutes: Joe motions to pass; Rob Viglas seconds

Transition of banking to new Town Clerk and Treasurer as well as adding a Selectboard signer is in process. Bank of Bennington is all set, M&T Bank is in progress and should be completed next week. NEMRC transition is also in motion.

Notes on Orders: Truck payment is being made for reduced amount.
John Deere late charge is legitimate and must be paid.

Fane was overpaid and we now have a credit with them for road salt, Jay will try to use this credit before the season is over to resolve the overage.

Orders Signed

Tech Updates: No updates on the Town laptop being returned.

New laptop will need to be purchased. Phyllis also needs new computer
Linda reached out to Mike, our tech consultant, to advise on security and hardware purchases.

Auditors: Valerie DePeyster is currently our only auditor. Peter may be willing to continue temporarily, Rob will also ask his neighbor.

Auditor salary should be updated to match the Lister salary.

1 response has come in for the **RFP for a professional audit**, that process is moving along.

Discussion of Town Meeting:

A few citizen concerns and requests are recognized:

- a wish for more specificity in appropriations and the ability to approve or discuss them line by line
- adding property transfer amounts
- adding original artwork or Sandgate-specific photos

Motion to adjourn by John Phelps; second Rob Viglas

Meeting adjourned 7:05pm

The next Selectboard meeting will be Monday March 16 at 6pm in Sandgate Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lewis Stevens

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