

Selectboard Meeting - October 5, 2026 6:00 pm

Call to Order:

Attendance: Joe Nolan, Linda Schmidt, Jessica Pendleton, Rob Viglas, John Phelps. Also in attendance: Margaret Phelps, Tom Santelli, Jessica Lewis, GNAT-TV. Minute taker: Jessica Lewis

Citizen Concerns

Eleanor Lacross has been in touch with Selectboard members regarding the higher cost-of-living raises given to the Road Crew this year and states they should also be extended to the Town Clerk, and these raises should be granted retroactively. The Board agrees to approve this raise.

John asks if the Assistant Clerk should also receive a raise if we're increasing the raise percentage for all Town employees, and this would also apply to Constable Rick Dahm.

Linda clarifies that instead of a 3% raise as budgeted, it would be a 5% raise from the time of the new fiscal year, and the Board unanimously agrees to these raises.

Joe brings forward an ongoing conversation among the Board and other residents about whether the Town Clerk could be appointed by the Selectboard as a long-term appointment akin to a typical hiring process in professional jobs as opposed to elected.

Linda says this subject came up earlier in the year as the Board was exploring what the protocol was when the previous clerk resigned, and the conversation arose out of hoping to avoid going through the same process again. In this instance, if the Clerk is hired, they may have more job security than if they are elected and need to run every three years. There would be an application process that would allow the Clerk to be evaluated based on their qualifications, which is a need that is increasing as the functions of the Clerk position have become more complex.

Joe states that because the Board changes frequently, the Town Clerk's position may be more secure if it remains an elected position with more voices able to vote for the Clerk if they're happy with the work being done.

John states when he started on the Board he was appointed, and then was elected at the next election and this was a suitable path.

Tom Santelli states he can see both sides of the issue, and points out that if the Clerk were appointed and there were issues with the Clerk, they could be protected by the Selectboard even if the Town was dissatisfied with the Clerk's performance.

The conversation wraps up with the Board in agreement that the Clerk position will remain an elected position at this time.

Ongoing Business

- **Drinking water at Town Hall**

The water filter has arrived at Town Hall. Joe asks if everyone agrees to ask Don Latif to install as he has been in Sandgate working at the Town Garage. Rob asks who has done the plumbing work at Town Hall before, and Joe names John Bushee. Since he is familiar with the systems here, Joe will reach out to John first to see if he's interested in doing the work.

- **MERP Grant Updates**

Linda has received an email from Tom Yandow stating that after the water is done at Town Hall, the lighting can be done. The window installer looked at the insulation in Town Hall and has said it is in good shape and does not need work. Linda will clarify re- hot water at Town Hall.

- **Short-Term-Rental Ordinance**

Jessica P. distributes a summary of the conversation she had with Dave, the Zoning Administrator from Sunderland, regarding how Sunderland manages their STR program, and the Board reviews the notes.

Jessica P. states the Board does not intend to infringe on any existing Airbnbs as that are currently in operation. The Board will continue to work on the ordinance.

Road Report

Joe shares that Jay and Skip have been working on the culvert in Beartown, and then they will move on to the culverts on SE Corners. They are not yet ready to fully grade the roads for winter, but will be working on washboards and preparing to grade when the time comes. There has been some trouble with one of the trucks, they are working on repairing the DEF.

Joe states it will be interesting to see if the overall price of fuel going up is going to affect our Town fuel budget.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 9/21 meeting

Linda motions to pass the Minutes, Joe seconds; all in favor.

Orders Signed

Other Business

Regarding the second Green-Up Day on October 17, there are bags available in the green box outside Town Hall. Filled bags can be left starting October 11 and Julie and Linda will be at Town Hall on the morning of the 17th with coffee.

Rob motions to adjourn, Linda seconds; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 6:41pm

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lewis