

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

Present: Steve Barrup, Jerry Waterman, Rick Gosselin, Hannah Roberts, Audra Pitts, Bob Best, Jason Willis, Bob McDowell, Steve Edgerly, Ernest Choquette

Rick Gosselin called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Steve Barrup made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7th, 2025 meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Bob Best proposed adding a door pull to the inside of the Town Clerk's Office door as it occasionally fails to latch closed. Suggestion was made to contact the original contractor that installed the door to see if it can be adjusted.

Bob McDowell asked about replacement of the missing Collins Mill Road sign. Hannah Roberts reported that the replacement had been installed earlier that day. Mr. McDowell also reported concerns over speeding and loud vehicles on Collins Mill Rd. Some discussion followed regarding similar issues across town. Selectboard noted that neighboring towns have not seen substantial reduction in such issues after increasing contracted Sheriff patrol hours.

Hannah Roberts reported that Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) had been kicked back by State of Vermont due to lack of secondary REMC appointee. Rick Gosselin agreed to be second appointee. Jason Willis requested that LEMP be reviewed in detail next year.

Selectboard signed approval of Orleans/Essex VNA & Hospice request for appropriation to be included in the warning for next Town Meeting.

Jason Willis discussed proposal for EMS helicopter training on town ball field. Much discussion followed. The training will happen at the school ball field.

Steve Barrup provided a draft written amendment to the paid leave section of the personnel policy. Board will review the draft and revisit the issue at next scheduled meeting.

Hannah Roberts discussed the offer from Chip Stevens to use herbicide on the ball field. After some discussion, Steve Barrup made a motion to allow it as part of the maintenance contract. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Hannah Roberts presented Grand List Errors & Omissions:

- Barn owned by Tobias & Sallie Stoltzfus was inadvertently omitted from their tax bill. Jerry Waterman made a motion to add it and issue an amended tax bill. Motion passed on a voice vote.
- A tax bill was issued for a 16.43 acre parcel owned by Carl & Cheryl Perrault under parcel number OVT105077. Those same 16.43 acres were also taxed on the bill for OVT105078. Steve Barrup made a motion to void the tax bill for parcel OVT105077. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Road Commissioner's Report – there was none.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – NEKWMD has a new director. No other reports.

Rick Gosselin reviewed the sheriffs' report. More discussion followed regarding concerns over speeding and lack of traffic tickets issued.

Steve Barrup made a motion to approve warrants, bank statements, and journal entries. Motion passed on a voice vote. It was noted that the UniFirst bill for road crew's uniforms increased. Some discussion followed. No action was taken.

The board discussed the Water System Operating Fee and Indirect Discharge Operating Fee invoices from the State of Vermont. It was noted that the state now requires these bill to be paid online. Rick Gosselin made a motion to pay said bills as required. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Hannah Roberts noted bills from NEKWMD for recycling and compost, and bill from Rene Fornier for parts to the roadside mower, which had been received after accounting software had been closed for the month. Rick Gosselin made a motion to instruct Town Clerk to pay said bills as soon as possible. Town Clerk confirmed that said bills will appear on the check warrant at next month's meeting.

The board reviewed an email from Vermont State Bridge Inspector regarding regular maintenance needed on the Buzzell Rd bridge over Mud Creek. The board instructed the Town Clerk to refer the email to Mike Baraw, Road Commissioner.

Hannah Roberts informed the board that a \$27,000 bond related to the town water system has been forgiven.

Hannah Roberts informed the board that Searles Rd will experience intermittent closures on September 9th and 10th for culvert replacement.

Hannah Roberts reviewed a contract with NEMRC to act as the town's hired assessor for September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Steve Barrup made a motion to sign the contract. Motion passed on a voice vote and the contract was signed.

Vote to adjourn at 6:31pm.