

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Steve Barrup, Jerry Waterman, Rick Gosselin, Hannah Roberts, Audra Pitts, Bob Best, Steve Edgerly, Ernest Choquette, Vince Buttice, Jacques Roberge, Ty Camber, Greg Barrett, Glenn Foster, Matt Wilson, Rick Ufford-Chase, Robert Judd, Rene Patenaude, Theresa Forbes, Monique Morin, Mike Morin, Dennis DeLaBruere, Devin Van Bockler, Bryan Lamoureux

Steve Barrup called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Jerry Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2nd, 2025 meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Newport City Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase introduced himself and gave a brief update on the financial outlook and downtown development plans of the city.

Robert Judd asked if the selectboard would consider allowing him to tap maple trees on the town-owned property off Poginy Hill Rd. The selectboard encouraged him to speak with the Conservation Committee about the idea.

The selectboard signed two cemetery deeds.

Rene Patenaude and his associates asked if the town would take over the sewer pump station his family currently operates. The pump station is currently integrated into the town's sewer system but owned and operated privately. After some discussion, the selectboard verbally agreed to take over the station if the family brings it up to code and it passes inspection by the town's wastewater engineers. The selectboard encouraged the family to speak with Mike Baraw about the process.

Jacques Roberge discussed 2026 health insurance for town employees. No action was taken at this time.

Vince Buttice requested permission to carry over the remainder of the 2025 cemetery budget in preparation for a new fence to be installed in the Route 105 cemetery next year. The selectboard asked him to include the proposal in the 2026 budget proposal.

Vince also asked if the town would supply some form of temporary gate to keep the Route 105 cemetery closed this winter. Ty Camber will work with the road commissioner to look for a solution.

Vince recommended that the town buy back two cemetery lots that the owners wish to sell back. After some discussion, the selectboard asked Vince and Steve Edgerly to investigate the town's options and return with more information.

Dennis DeLaBruere reported that he spoke with the county forester who suggested a logging project on the town-owned land off Vance Hill. Glenn Foster spoke with another forester who suggested a logging project on the town-owned land off Poginy Hill. After some discussion, the selectboard encouraged them to solicit and consider bids for both projects.

Devin Van Bockler explained that he teaches wilderness survival classes and wished to use the town-owned land off Poginy Hill. The selectboard chose to allow it provided he is properly insured and coordinates with any logging activity that may occur.

The selectboard considered a request for permission from the USDA to conduct a trap-vaccinate-release program on town-owned land. The selectboard expressed interest but requested Hannah Roberts solicit more information before approval.

Discussion surrounding the personnel policy was tabled until executive session.

Ty Camber provided the road commissioner's report. Trucking of road sand is complete. More ditching was done. Snowplows have been installed on the town's plow trucks. The road crew is prepared for winter.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Water and sewer systems are operating well. Solar panels seem to be working well. NEKWMD is holding two public budget hearings over the next month. An update to the Solid Waste Implementation Plan is in progress. Charlie Buck is looking to leave his job as the recycling center attendant in the foreseeable future.

Rick Gosselin reviewed the sheriffs' report. Sheriff Jennifer Harlow plans to attend the next selectboard meeting as she was unavailable today.

Steve Barrup made a motion to approve warrants, bank statements, and journal entries. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Jerry Waterman announced that he will not seek reelection at the end of his term in 2026.

The board entered executive session at 7:00pm for a personnel contract issue.

The board exited executive session at 7:25pm. No action was taken

Vote to adjourn 7:25pm.