

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Jerry Waterman, Rick Gosselin, Steve Barrup, Hannah Roberts, Audra Pitts, Steve Edgerly, Jason Willis, Chris Lowery, Bob Best, Ernest Choquette, Vince Buttice, Mike Morin, Karen Camber, Matt Wilson, Dennis DeLaBruere, Mike Baraw, Jenn Hopkins, Steve Roberts, Luke Patenaude, Rene Patenaude, Monique Morin

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

Jerry Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Jason Willis informed the selectboard that the pond dedication stone is completed and at the fire station. The fire department will install it as soon as weather allows. Jason and Steve Roberts asked the selectboard for their input on the idea of asking for a \$150,000 equipment appropriation to be paid out over the course of 5 years due to rising equipment costs and the logistics of financing fire trucks. The selectboard indicated their understanding of the plan but does not believe it is possible. There was some discussion regarding the fire department budget in the town report. Jason also noted that the Newport Center and Newport City Fire Departments will be conducting an ice water rescue training on the fire pond on Saturday.

Dennis DeLaBruere, on behalf of the Conservation Committee, reported that the forester has marked the trees in the Vance Hill forest and North Country Career Center students will be doing the logging. They have plans to invite the Newport Center Elementary School students to visit the site and learn about forestry. They are still looking to hire a logger for the Poginy Hill Property.

Vince Buttice, on behalf of the Cemetery Committee, reported that they have voted against allowing people to sell their cemetery plots back to the town. If someone no longer wants the plot they purchased, they will recommend a private sale. Vince also reviewed the cemetery committee's budget requests. The request includes closing a legacy CD at M&T Bank and transferring the balance to the General Fund account at Community National Bank for cemetery use. Hannah Roberts explained that M&T Bank will require a letter from the selectboard authorizing account closure. Rick made a motion to close the M&T Bank account and move the money into the general fund. Motion passed on a voice vote. The selectboard signed a letter stating that.

Jenn Hopkins reviewed the 2025 Boat Greeter Program and asked the selectboard if they would like to participate again in 2026 at an expected cost to the town of \$15,000. The selectboard thanked Jenn for her work on the program and will consider the request during budget meetings. Hannah Roberts signed a request form for a second iPad for the program.

Rene Patenaude discussed the updates made to the sewer pump station. Mike Baraw is still waiting for Aldrich & Elliot to come inspect the station.

Road Commissioners' Report – The road crew is working to keep the road plowed, sanded, and salted. Efforts are going well. The 2023 Freightliner is going for work to correct a suspension recall and other items. Mike discussed an unpaid invoice from Cargill from December of 2024. Mike has verified to the best of his ability that we do indeed owe the invoice and the payment was on the December check warrant.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Water and sewer systems are operating well. The electric gate at the reservoir was not working. The computer board was changed and the gate is now working. Molly Dockter from NVDA is coming on Monday to discuss grants and other aid to update water systems with Mike and Hannah. Jerry will also attend the meeting. One solar panel doesn't seem to be moving as it should. Hannah will call AllEarth Renewables and request a technician come out. The NEKWMD budget passed and will be in the town report. Mike reported that there are several small appliances stacked by the door of the old recycling center that should not be there.

Rick reviewed the Sheriffs' Report.

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

There was no new business.

The board entered executive session at 6:33pm to discuss a personnel issue.

The board left executive session at 6:50pm. No action was taken.

Vote to adjourn 6:51pm.