

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Rick Gosselin, Steve Barrup, Hannah Roberts, Mike Baraw, Karen Camber, Norman Patenaude, Bob Best, Steve Edgerley, Richard Wells, Dave Ghelli, Rene Patenaude, Bob McDowell, Theresa Forbes, Jen Hopkins, Bruce Sargent

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

Rick Gosselin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2026 meeting. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Bruce Sargent voiced his concerns regarding decision-making procedures for the town forests.

At the request of the selectboard, Richard Wells appeared on behalf of the Orleans County Sheriff's Department. There was some discussion about patrolling, recordkeeping, billing, and vehicle noise. The selectboard signed a contract with the OCSD for the upcoming year.

Michael Wellhoff failed to appear. Mike Baraw reported that he inspected the water meter and found the issue to be caused by frozen pipes and that the repairs are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Jen Hopkins appeared to discuss the boat greeter program. Funding will be similar to last year. Hannah and Jen will reach out to prospective employees.

The selectboard discussed a resolution adopted by several municipalities in both the US and Canada regarding water quality in Lake Memphremagog. Steve Barrup noted that the resolution included several great points but he felt that it focused heavily on the environmental impacts of the Coventry landfill and failed to mention many other substantial sources of pollution. After significant discussion, the selectboard voted to adopt the resolution.

Rick made a motion to recommend Steve Edgerly as the Town Health Officer and Ann Edgerly as the Deputy Town Health Officer. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The selectboard reviewed and signed the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

Steve Barrup made a motion to approve the easement regarding the Patenaude sewer pump station. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Road Commissioners' Report – reclaiming of Cross Rd and Vance Hill will begin on Wednesday. Mike informed the selectboard that there is an old sidewalk buried under the pavement in front of the Newport Center Methodist Church. The selectboard instructed Mike to handle it as he feels best. There are several different grants and state funding being worked on.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Water system is working well. The annual sewer inspection was completed with a few recommendations. The tanks need to be pumped at a cost of approximately \$20,000-\$30,000. The sewer fields are in good working condition. There

were a few minor recommendations regarding the Patenaude pump station. The town will handle remediation. The town is still waiting for a quote to fix the solar panels that are not tracking. NEKWMD is experiencing financial difficulties due to decreasing revenue.

Rick reviewed the Sheriff's report.

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

The selectboard signed a cemetery deed for the Lake Rd cemetery.

There was some discussion regarding the status of the new Rural Edge apartments.

Mike noted that the roads have been unposted.

Vote to adjourn 6:58 pm.