



Select Board Work Session

Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2026 at 9:00 am

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

a. Board Members Present

Minutes:

Cathy Thomas, Chair Joseph Caputo Christine R. Holzinger

b. Other Town Officials Present

Minutes:

Christian Jensen (Tax Collector, Treasurer, Office Supervisor) Jane Hubert (Recycling Group) Sue Look (Deputy Clerk)

c. Recorder

Minutes:

Marie-Anne Flowers (Administrative Assistant)

Town Business

2. Voting Machine - Municipal Election

Minutes:

The Clerk, Valerie Hanson, has requested \$3400.00 to rent a voting machine for the upcoming June election. The need for the rented machine stems from how the election may be run and counted. The rented machine would tabulate the ballots, eliminating the need for a physical count. It may be difficult to obtain volunteers to count the ballots if the select board decides all articles will be voted on by written ballot. The Deputy Clerk, Sue Look attended the meeting to review the information presented by Val. There have been rumors that all warrants will be voted on individually during the election instead of at the Annual Town Meeting. A larger number of voters would be expected for the upcoming election. The presented quote is for one election. The Select Board determines how the election will be tabulated, as well as what is voted on at the annual town meeting and what is voted on by written ballot.

3. Recycling inquiry

Minutes:

Jane Hubert attended the work session to discuss recycling and the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law. She clarified that no minimum tonnage is required to qualify. The budget committee thought there may be a minimum weight requirement. Grants may be available in the future. Joe added that the new transfer station in Gardiner is not expected to be operational until fall 2026. They will accept all waste except for cardboard. Cardboard will be an additional charge.

4. East Rd (E. Webb Rd) Maintenance Agreement:

Minutes:

Cathy has reviewed the information presented by the East Rd. residents. She also researched town history for background on East Rd (E. Webb RD). She has determined that the road has not been officially discontinued. Christine inquired about the status of the road prior to the subdivision. She has found that in 2005, the town voted to keep the Old Town Farm Road as a public easement. This was passed at the Annual Town Meeting. The town is not required to maintain a public easement road. The general public has the right to use the easement road, but the town is not required to maintain the road. If the current budget is affected by this decision, the town will need to vote to take over maintenance of that section of the road. Joe feels the road would need to be graded and shaped. Plowing, sanding, grading, and ditching would be needed to maintain the road. The road would remain a dirt/gravel road. Cathy questioned whether the road could be maintained with the current budget. Joe feels that it could be. Joe suggested asking Steve McGee to grade and shape the road. If Steve agrees, Joe asked whether Cathy would feel this would require a town vote, or whether the Select Board could decide to take over the road without a vote at the town meeting. More research is needed on the costs of preparing the road and who is responsible for preparing it. Plowing and sanding costs would increase if we agree to take over winter road maintenance. Specifications for the road are located in the Road Ordinance. It was discussed who would be tasked with approving the road's specs once completed.

5. Budget

Articles - Ballot & Annual Town Meeting

Minutes:

The Select Board reviewed the budget recommendations from the Budget Committee.

- To raise the select board allotment from \$26000.00 to \$42000.00 for the increase in members. This will be considered and included
- \$1340.00 added for cemetery flag holders and \$467.00 for weed killer. This will be included
- Recycling attendant position will be kept as is. The proposed facility in Gardiner is not ready and will not be ready until fall 2026. It is better to fund this and not need it than to need it and not have accounted for it. The recycling budget will include the attendant and battery boxes. The article should reflect the dates covered through 12/31/2026.
- Fire department budget committee changes have been reviewed.
- Road budget suggested changes were reviewed. \$1500.00 for liquid deicer can be removed. The current contractor is not using this product. There is a supply

currently that is not being used.

- \$300,000.00 for paving (reduced from \$400,000.00)
- Asphalt prep should be removed from the highway and bridges budget.
- Blodgett Rd culvert replacement estimated to be \$25,000.00. The culvert reserve fund will pay down the loan.
- Emergency work was discussed.
- Summer Maintenance was reviewed
- Road Grading - no changes
- \$20,000.00 for Hunts Meadow & Kelley Rd paving preparation, culvert replacement, ditching
- Gravel can be zero
- Winter maintenance amount voted on will be \$380,000.00
- sand/salt pricing is being reviewed. This amount will be reduced to \$55,000.
- \$30,000 for salt
- Will a new fund be started to save \$10,000.00 a year to save and plan for revaluation expenses?
- Charitable donations were discussed. The amounts were reviewed. Chrysalis Place, Tiger Food Pantry, Maine General Hospice, Senior Spectrum, and Life Flight will be kept. All other requests will be eliminated. Tiger Food Pantry, Chrysalis Place, and Senior Spectrum will be \$2800.00. Life flight will be \$750.00, and Maine General Hospice will be kept at \$500.00. It has been established that \$9,650.00 for charitable donations.
- The cemetery budget was discussed and reviewed. \$
- Hatch Hill \$30,000.00 The future of Hatch Hill is not certain.
- Colburn House restoration \$10,000.00
- RiverWalk: a poll question was discussed. Should there be a poll question asking the town if we should keep the RiverWalk or not to support the continued development of the RiverWalk property as a recreation space? This would be voted on during the election on the following Tuesday. The \$1500.00 request should still be voted on.
- Fire department reserve fund request is \$30,000.00
- Boys & Girls Club will be left in the budget and the residents will vote on this item.
- The Library donation request of \$30,906.00 was discussed. If we do not donate, the town will not be able to use the library. This should be left up to the town to vote on.
- Pittston Literary and Historical Society is requesting \$1600.00 \$1100.00 for a computer and \$500.00 for their normal request.
- Cemetery requests over the amount allowed for Veteran grave sites. These will be separate warrants for anything over the requested amount.
- General Administration has not been changed by the budget committee.

6. Deputy Clerk PTO Time

Minutes:

The select board is reviewing the request from Christian to compensate Sue for her PTO accrued while she worked in Richmond.

Road Business

7. Major Projects**8. Medium Road Repair (>\$10,000)****9. Small Projects (<\$10,000)****a. Ditching/Culverts**

Old County Rd

b. Potholes**c. Trees and Debris****d. Road Striping: Spring****e. Road Sweeping: Spring****f. Grading****Minutes:**

The roads are dig safe ready for grading.

g. Posting Roads**Minutes:**

The posted signs were removed over the weekend. The Select Board discussed the timing and who made the decision to remove signage on what roads.

10. Town Announcements & Information**11. Meeting Adjournment****Minutes:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM