



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
Selectboard
PO Box 223 Townshend, Vermont 05353

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2026 6:00 PM
Townshend Town Hall
Approved: 2/10/26

Present: Allie Evans, Nick Suarez, Katie Marrow, Steve Frisk, Rob Wright

In Attendance: Brian Guerrino – BCTV, Connie Holt

Members of the Public: Tyler Burns, Brittany Frost, Kate Mays, Travis Chakowsky, John Evans, Haley Felker, Danny MacNamara, Allie Dercoli, Shaun Marrow, Amy Blaise, Helen Holt, and unidentified number on ZOOM.

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** Evans calls the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Evans reads the meeting decorum statement.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Suarez makes a motion to approve the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** none
4. **Members of the Public:**
Kate Mays and Tyler Burns raise questions regarding the purpose of the Friends of Town Hall and Opera House and its relationship with the Town and the Selectboard. Evans and Suarez state that it is a volunteer organization that formed for the beautification of Town Hall. Evans points out that while the organization proposes beautification projects, they receive permission from the Board. Suarez states that the town and the organization are separate entities. Tyler Burns asks if the Selectboard supports the Friends' special article. Wright replies that the Board voted to send the article to the taxpayers at Town Meeting. Evans encourages the group to come to Town Meeting.
5. **Correspondence:** none
6. **Warrants:** Wright makes a motion to pay warrants 1-4.

Payroll:	\$16,201.93
Payroll taxes:	\$7,818.03
General Fund:	\$4,840.10

Highway:	\$37,884.03
Total:	\$66,744.09

Suarez seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1.

7. Reports:

- a. **Highway:** Holt gives a summary of the report. The trucks are all up in running order. Jeremy worked with the Road Commissioner and the Selectboard Chair in response to the most recent storm. He reports that Townshend, like other towns, is having a hard time obtaining salt. He reports that with the cold weather the need for salting and sanding are less. When the weather warms up then the need will increase.

He reports that it has been brought to the attention of the Selectboard that there are some broken rafters in the sand shed. He reports that delivery trucks periodically break the rafters when dumping sand. The broken rafters do not compromise the structure. It is something to try to address in the spring.

- b. **Treasurer:** Evans gives the report. The Treasurer reports that there is \$569,828.20 in the municipal investment fund and \$30,000 in the checking account.
- c. **Town Clerk:** Evans gives the report. In the first two weeks of January, the Clerk took in \$337.00 in fees and services.
- d. **Chair:** none
- e. **Grant Coordinator:** Marrow reports on the outstanding grant applications. She reports that she is applying for the community tree grant for the removal of hazardous trees. She requests that the Selectboard sign a risk management agreement. Suarez makes a motion to authorize Evans to sign the risk management agreement. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-0-1.

Marrow reports that she submitted a HSIP safety grant for guardrails for Rte 35. She has resubmitted the T-Mobile grant application for the restoration of the fountain. She is also looking into an AARP community grant that could be used for the fountain. The Board approves her applying for that grant. She continues to look into the VDART grant for emergency needs for pet sheltering. She is in conversation with Glen Beattie and Sherwood Lake as the emergency point people. She continues to work on the USDA trash compactor grant. She is exploring if there is a potential conflict with the special article on trash collection at Town Meeting. If there is then there may be other projects to apply for with the USDA grant. Marrow has met with contractors regarding the second floor windows for the Cultural Facilities grant or for the Vermont Historic Preservation grants. She is in the process of determining which is a better fit for the windows. She reports that the sidewalk

study will happen through the UVM capstone project that came out of a grant program. While there is no revenue, it is free services through the program. Finally, she reports that she is waiting to hear on 3 VTrans grants that she has applied for.

8. Old Business: none

9. New Business:

- a. Reappointment of Town Ethics Appointee to the State Ethics Commission: Suarez makes a motion to re-appoint Connie Holt as the town ethics appointee. Frisk seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0-1.
- b. Reappraisal Agreement: Wright makes a motion to table this issue until the next meeting in order to ask questions and review the contract. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
- c. Establishing a Treasurer Transition Team: Suarez makes a motion to establish a Treasurer Transition Team. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
- d. Town Hall Use Request: Friends of Townshend Library, 2/12/2026: Marrow makes a motion to approve the town hall use request of the Friends of Townshend Library, to waive the fee, and to authorize Evans to sign on behalf of the Board. Suarez seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
- e. Town Hall Use Request: ANR, VT Dept of Forest, Parks & Recreation, 2/18/26: Suarez makes a motion to approve the ANR town hall use request for a public meeting, to charge the fee, and to have Evans sign on behalf of the Board. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0.
- f. Correction to the Town Warning: Suarez makes a motion to approve the corrected Town Warning for Town Meeting. Wright seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-1-0.

10. Executive Session: per Statue 1 V.S.A 313(1e): Evans makes a motion to move into executive session and to invite Connie Holt to attend. Suarez seconds the motion. Motion carries 4-0-1. The meeting is moved to executive session at 6:54pm. Suarez makes a motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-

11. 0. The regular meeting is reconvened at 7:33pm. Suarez reports back that the Selectboard discussed two ethics complaints. The first is regarding a Selectboard member signing payroll warrants that concern his/her payroll. The second concerns the road foreman's personal use of the truck. The Board has decided that no action is needed.

12. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:00pm

13. Adjournment: Suarez makes a motion to adjourn. Frisk seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. The meeting is adjourned at 7:33pm.