

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER  
SELECTBOARD/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2026

Draft

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

Present:

Selectboard Members: Norman (Nope) Martin and Steve Tarleton,

Treasurer: Melissa Spear,

Clerk: Nancy Robinson

Road Foreman: Randy Kennedy

Visitors: In person - None

Zoom: Justin Bigos, VT Standard Reporter and Otis Driftwood

**Additions to agenda:** Certificate of Public Good for the Solar project on the Fire Station was signed by the board.

MERP – Notice that Requests for Bids have been prepared and released. Bidders will be able to view the Town Office and Town Garage on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 am -11:00 am.

Nope moved and Steve seconded to approve the minutes of December 30, 2025, and January 6, 2026, as written. Motion carried.

**Highway Report:** Plowing and sanding as needed. One of the trucks got stuck on Perkins Road last week and had to be pulled out with a wrecker. Randy asked if the board would agree to allow him to share salt with Plymouth while they are awaiting a delivery. They will replace when they get their delivery. Board agreed.

Town has received information regarding a Local Safety Grant for up to \$50,000, no match required to replace guardrails, cut trees etc. Trees on Gold Coast Road may be a good candidate for this grant. Randy will reach out to TRORC for assistance with applying for the grant. If possible, there may be a tree by the cemetery on the same side of the road that could get added to this project.

The annual mileage certificate was signed, no new roads added, reclassified or discontinued.

**Treasurer's File:** Expense warrant #26-13 was reviewed and signed. Melissa and Randy have been working with Chris Bump and Nikki Burke from Johnson-McFarland to finalize the scope of work on the Hale Hollow Bridge project. Still waiting for contract information from N. Burke and language change from C. Bump. Phone conference call planned for Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, hoping to have all needed information at that time so that the bid packets can be sent out.

**Clerk's File:** Excess weight permits were approved for Able Waste Management and North Star Rubbish Removal. Board reviewed information regarding computer and IT assistance from Michael Skuro of Woodstock. Owen moved to hire/contract with Skuro Data Management & Consulting Co. for future computer and technical needs. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. the motion and motion carried.

**Old business:** None

January 13, 2026, minutes cont.

**New business:** Town has received 2025 Equalization Study; CLA is 100.86% and COD is 18.23%. Assessor is aware, no basis for appeal.

Board reviewed Notice of Alternative Presentation Meeting scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 4:00 pm with VTRANS to discuss plans regarding the bridge on Mountainside Road. Notice has been published in the Vermont Standard and sent to all abutting property owners.

Visitors: No comment

Owen moved to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a-3) personnel at 4:56 pm. Steve seconded the motion and Motion carried.

Board returned to open meeting at 5:15 pm.

Owen made the following motion: the Town Treasurer and Clerk's pay will be increased to \$30.00 hour, the Asst. Clerk will increase to \$21.00, the highway crew will be increased to \$30.00 per hour and road foreman \$41.00 per hour. Melissa asked for clarification on the Administrative Assistants pay, which will also be increased to \$30.00 per hour. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and motion carried. Increasing will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. new fiscal year.

Hoping to have final budget numbers for next week's budget meeting.

Being no further business or discussion, Owen moved to adjourn at 5:20 pm, Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Robinson*

Nancy Robinson,  
Clerk