Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2026 10:00 am
Belmont Mill, Tioga Meeting Room

Present were Chairman Ruth P. Mooney, Selectman Travis O'Hara, Selectman Sharon Ciampi, Selectman Mark Lewandoski, Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, Executive Assistant/Assessing Administrator Colleen Akerman, Town Planner Karen Santoro, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Cashman, Assistant DPW Director Noel Gourley, Fire Chief Donald Pickowicz, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Famalore and Police Chief Steve Akerstrom. Via Zoom were Fire Department Administrative Assistant Becky Beaulac and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Assistant Devon Tibbetts.

Absent: Selectman Jon Pike.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:00 am and those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Ruth P. Mooney gave a big thank you to Town Clerk/Tax Collection Jennifer Cashman and her office for their work on the election yesterday. It was very, very busy and a great day with almost no issues. They did a great job. There was one small issue with the ballots being so thin the marker bled through to the back side and the machine kicked them out for hand counting.

Review & Approve Minutes:

Minutes of Public and Non-Public Meetings 10/21/2026:

Selectman Travis O'Hara moved to approve the minutes of the public meeting held 10/21/2026; seconded by Selectman Mark Lewandoski. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Selectman O'Hara moved to approve the minutes of the non-public meeting held 10/21/2026; seconded by Selectman Lewandoski. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

New Business:

Police Department Request to Use propertyroom.com to Auction Evidence:

Police Chief Steve Akerstrom requested the department be approved to auction evidence. Evidence can be disposed of in a few different ways; including calling people to come get their belongings. Some items must be destroyed based on a court order, including some firearms. Other evidence can be sold or auctioned. Propertyroom.com will send a monthly check for any items sold, which would go back to the General Fund. Chief Akerstrom would like to earmark some of the funds for a required evidence refrigerator that is getting old and holds some items that are many years old. There is no cost to the Town for the service although fuel surcharges

may come off the proceeds we receive. The company will come pick up all of the items, handle the bidders, payments and any necessary background checks. Other departments in New Hampshire who use their services include Gilford, Portsmouth and Salem. They are a legitimate company. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the Police Department to move forward with the auction process with propertyroom.com and to come back to the Board when funds are received in order to request they be earmarked.

Highway Safety Grant Amendment:

This is an amendment for a grant that has already been approved by the Board for the purchase of MDT/CRASH equipment as presented. The funds match is budgeted.

Selectman O'Hara moved to accept the amended grant terms in the amount of $11,916.57, for the purchase of MDT/ECRASH equipment as presented in the Grant Agreement Amendment Notice, for an adjusted total grant limitation of $48,425.07 through the NH Office of Highway Safety; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

The Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the amended grant terms in the amount of $11,916.57, for the purchasing of MDT/ECRASH equipment as presented in the Grant Agreement Amendment Notice for an adjusted total grant limitation of $48,425.07.

Decommissioning Fire Truck for Grant:

Fire Chief Pickowicz reported they are at the final stages of the grant truck process, but they need to decommission the old truck. He needs to know how the Board would like to dispose of the old truck. Belmont Salvage has expressed interest and would let us decommission the truck at his yard. There are likely others who would like to have it as well, but there are other options such as Municibid and another similar company Chief Pickowicz found out about last week. The other company would come out to give an estimate on what they think the truck is worth and they showed that they have a larger outreach and obtain more money for items listed with them. They are located north of Boston and work throughout the State. The truck needs to be decommissioned as soon as possible so that we can get our money from the State this year. The decommissioning could take place at the DPW yard and stay there for a little while. The State will need to come watch the decommissioning and DPW has the proper bits for drilling the engine. It was the consensus of the Board to try the new company recommended by Chief Pickowicz, and to set a deadline for the sale. If it doesn't sell within the deadline, it should be sold to a junkyard for salvage, so it doesn't sit in the yard all winter.

Other New Business:

Election Update:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Cashman gave an update on the General Election held yesterday 11/03/2026. There were more than 3,300 voters, which is more than she has ever seen. She hopes we get the same type of turnout for the March Town Election. It was a great day, and she praised her team for such a great job. Town staff were checking in new voters and helping verify their proof of citizenship. There were over 250 who did same day registrations. There were minimal problems, candidates were respectful and there was a great turnout. TC/TC Cashman thanked the Board for all they do, and thanked Chairman Mooney for staying through until the very end. She also thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist, the ballot clerks, election workers

and Moderator Al Nix. People who needed help received it and everything went smoothly. People were chatting and talking in the line to return their ballots.

Private Road Review:

Town Planner Karen Santoro and Assistant Director Noel Gourey reported they recently investigated the status of two Belmont roads: Gilman Shore Road and Dupont Road. It has been determined that Gilman Shore Road is a private road and they have all of the documentation, and have reached out to the State of New Hampshire. Town funds cannot be expended to plow private roadways. Letters will be mailed to all property owners on Gilman Shore Road. However, there is a pump station on Gilman Shore Road. They requested that the Board consider declaring Gilman Shore Road an emergency lane so DPW can continue to plow and maintain the road to access the pump station. It will require a public hearing with 10 days' notice and certified mail notifications to property owners. The road is dirt and some properties are seasonal.

Dupont Road has been determined to be all public. The Town will continue to maintain Dupont Road and there will be no changes.

Old Business:

2027 Fire Department Budget Update:

Employee elections for health and dental have changed since the Board's last budget meeting.

Chairman Mooney moved to approve the Fire Department's amended 2027 proposed budget in the amount of $3,024,021, with changes reflective of medical and dental plan updates; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Other Old Business: None

Public Comment:

Liz Charlwood of Cotton Hill Road spoke on behalf of the residents of Great Brook Village to follow up from the last meeting about concerns in the park about affordability, park rents and property taxes. There are concerns that the Board has the responsibility to ensure assessments are accurate for market value, and they should treat this as a special situation. There was some discussion about what is allowed by law and Staff concerns that revaluations on one small part of Town before the next revaluation cycle may not be allowed by statute. It was Staff's recommendation that all property owners in Great Brook Village start working to prepare and submit abatement applications after their fall tax bills.

Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman will contact the NH Department of Revenue (NHDRA) for guidance and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Highway Department Truck # 12:

Selectman Lewandoski suggested that DPW request a value on truck #12 when the auction company comes to give an estimate on the decommissioned fire truck.

BOS Future Agenda Items: None

Board & Committee Reports: None

The Budget Committee will hold their first meeting tomorrow @ 6:00 pm.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Selectman Ciampi asked if there is any work on the tax rate yet. TA Jipson and Selectman O'Hara stated we are waiting on the county, who is working with NHDRA.

Non-Public Session: None

Adjournment:

Selectman O'Hara moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 am; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted By:

Colleen Akerman

Colleen Akerman, Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board 11 / 18 /2026:

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Travis O'Hara, Vice Chairman

Jon Pike, Selectman

Sharon Ciampi

Sharon Ciampi, Selectman

Mark Lewandoski, Selectman