

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting October 14, 2025

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chair; R. Stephen Leighton; Brian Monahan  
Others Present: Ellen White, Town Administrator; Sonja Smith, Minutes Keeper  
In Attendance: JoAnn Brown; Susan Higgins; John Chicarello; Derek Sawyer; Scott A. Young,  
Conservation Committee Chair; Kerry Omand; Phil Auger

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. Payroll and payment of bills were reviewed and approved. The minutes of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting were read and approved. A timber tax warrant for Map 5 Lot 4 was approved; current use tax warrants for 186 Wild Goose Pond Road, 172 Wild Goose Pond Road, and 37 Webber Road were reviewed and signed.

After reviewing information provided concerning a lot of record and its right of way, the Board was in agreement that a 911 number could be assigned to the property. A letter for the 911 liaison to submit to the State along with the application will be composed.

Chair Sweet had been in contact with the State Forestry on a personal matter when the subject of Class A trails presented itself. The State confirmed that only land abutters have wheeled access to Class A trails-the general public does not. The State suggested that signs with the RSA could be posted. No decision was made.

Susan Higgins, Derek Sawyer, and John Chicarello, representing themselves as the Fireworks Committee, met with the Board requesting an increase to the current Patriotic budget for fireworks. Ms. Higgins stated that asking for donations at the two stores in Town and on social media has not been effective. The Board was in agreement the Town will not consider adding money to the budget for fireworks. The cost of the fireworks should be funded elsewhere as the Town already pays for 2/3 of the cost plus the cost of police and fire personnel on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Board decisively stated they will not put any more of the cost on the taxpayers. Joann Brown, in attendance for another matter, made it clear that several residents are already unhappy about their tax bill and people do not want their tax money to be used for fireworks. Ms. Higgins explained the limited resources and volunteers. The Board suggested that it may be time to let the tradition go; the group is welcome to submit a petition article at Town Meeting, but the Board will not add money to the budget for fireworks.

Joann Brown was in attendance asking the Board to look into a junkyard situation in Town.

Members of the Conservation Commission were in attendance to discuss a possible land acquisition. Restrictions, environmental concerns and logistics were discussed at length. Strafford Regional Planning Commission will be contacted to look into possible grants to aid in the process. The Board suggested that a map of the area be sketched out for the current owners' approval.

Selectman Monahan updated the Board on happenings at the Recycling Center. Extended hours were discussed with Dan Conway, manager at the facility. Mr. Conway will consider the added hours in April 2026 since the operations have slowed with the departure of summer residents.

Software purchase and installation contracts from Avitar for the tax and assessing programs were reviewed, approved and signed.

In the month of November, the Board agreed to move their meeting scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> to November 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Insurance rates were reviewed.

The contract for the new full time police officer was reviewed; his starting date will be in November.

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the upcoming reval in 2026. The NHDRA has approved KRT's contract. The Town's Assessor to advise on other companies to contact for assessment on the required utility portion.

The Board reviewed correspondence and status information of the Coot Farm subdivision in Barrington. The project is still in design review with no decisions being made by Barrington's Planning Board. Minutes from Barrington's Planning Board September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting stated that "Both towns be involved in the review of the development." Strafford's Selectmen acknowledged the direct impact on our Town's emergency services.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Lynn Sweet to adjourn; seconded by Brian Monahan and voted on unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.