

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 23, 2026

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chair; Brian Monahan, R. Stephen Leighton

Other Present: Ellen White, Town Administrator; Sonja Smith, Minutes Keeper

In Attendance: Police Chief Young; Lieutenant Bernard; Charles Moreno; Dan Howard, Building Inspector; Ralph Scannelli; Gerald Waldron

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM. The Board approved the payment of bills and payroll. The minutes of the June 9th Selectmen's meeting and the June 15th work session were read and approved. Notices of pay rate for employees of Hill Library were approved. An intent to cut on Payne Road was approved.

Chief Young and Lieutenant Bernard met with the Board to discuss several matters. The Board clarified the parameters of the Police Special Details funds is to be used on vehicle related matters such as maintenance, outfitting and upgrades, adding that any expenditure should be approved by the Board prior to purchases being made.

The Chief provided an update regarding the increasing demand for drone deployment, noting that the Department responded to 16 drone-related calls last year and has already handled 21 calls this year. The drones have been utilized for a variety of public safety purposes, including search and rescue operations for missing children and elderly individuals, assistance with Fire Department smoke investigations, and support during law enforcement pursuits involving individuals attempting to evade apprehension. The Chief further clarified that the drones are not used for general surveillance, such as monitoring private property or backyards, and are not operated over the lake unless engaged in an active search and rescue operation. The Board's other concern lies with the public's perception of the drone being used in other towns. The Chief explained Strafford requests other town's assistance with a K-9 officer and the use of the drone is a mutual aid situation. The Board suggested that the Police give an overview of the drone program at Town Meeting or another source of communicating this to the community.

The Police Department will be retaining the 2017 Tahoe to serve as a backup patrol vehicle in the event that an additional cruiser is needed or when another unit is out of service. The Tahoe is 4WD which provides an advantage, particularly during the winter months and in adverse road conditions, where standard all-wheel-drive vehicles may have limited access. It will also be used to tow the command center trailer.

At this time, Charlie Moreno met with the Board to discuss motorcycles at the KOA Campground. He explained that the original campground approval included there be "no motorcycles" at the campground. He has seen an overwhelming increase in noise and traffic that he feels is affecting the quality of life and asked that the ban of motorcycles be enforced. The question was raised about the legal enforceability. This would fall under Code of Enforcement rather than police authority. The Board was in agreement the new owners of the campground may not be aware of the restrictions. The Board agreed to review the original approval documentation and to consult legal counsel, if needed.

He also complained of hearing gunfire. The Police Department had not had any reports or calls of gunfire over the weekend.

Ralph Scannelli asked to meet with the Board concerning a neighbor installing outdoor lighting that is “spilling” over on to his property and claims it is affecting his living conditions. The Board reviewed pictures Mr. Scannelli provided on his phone and reviewed the Town’s outdoor lighting ordinance. The Board was in agreement to have the Building Inspector write a letter to the property owner requesting the outdoor lighting be in compliance with the Town’s ordinances.

The Building Inspector has spoken with the neighbor several times concerning the outdoor lighting. Mr. Scannelli has also called the Police Department to complain about interactions with the neighbor.

Selectmen Monahan will conduct a site review. If the violation is confirmed, the letter will be sent to the neighbor.

With Chief Young and Lieutenant Bernard in attendance, the Board had the opportunity to view the recently purchased Chevrolet Silverado. The Board offered feedback regarding the “ghost” lettering, expressing a preference for more traditional markings. The Chief assured the Board the other vehicles will have the traditional red, white and blue markings.

The Board briefly discussed the July 3rd celebration. The full Police Department will be present as well as the many members of the Fire Department. It was noted that the cost of July 3rd goes well above the \$6,000 the Town donates.

The Police Department expressed concerns regarding a recent increase in the use of electric scooters, noting that many operators appear to be inattentive to their surroundings and are not consistently complying with applicable traffic laws. Additional concern was raised regarding the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles, such as Gators, on public roadways; however, it was acknowledged that recent legislation now permits such use under certain conditions, thereby limiting the Department’s ability to enforce restrictions in this area. The Department also identified pedestrian safety and traffic flow issues on Water Street, where individuals walking two or three abreast are impeding vehicular traffic, creating potential hazards for both motorists and pedestrians.

The Board thanked Chief Young and Lieutenant Bernard for being in attendance.

The Board discussed the landscaping at the Town Hall and approved seeking external services.

The current server at the Town Hall is outdated and has been found to be incompatible with software systems. A price to replace the server is to be requested from the Town’s current IT vendor. Surrounding towns will be contacted for recommendations on IT vendors.

Miscellaneous correspondence was read and briefly discussed.

The Board discussed the meeting minute recorder for the Planning Board and Zoning Board needs to be filled. As an interim measure, the Board acknowledged that the Planning and Zoning Boards may need to temporarily assume recording responsibilities until the position is filled. Additionally, the Board considered the potential future use of an AI transcription tool to assist with or supplement meeting minute preparation.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.