

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2026**

Present: Selectman James Bailey – Chairman, Selectwoman Iris Campbell, Richard Pelletier – Selectman, and Laura Buono, Town Administrator

At the opening of the meeting the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Others present: Cathy Houle, James & Kimberley Acciardo, Angela Polochov, Luke Levesque, Ron Houde, Maurice Cyr, Jean Houde, Riche' Colcombe, Keith Cobbett, Adam Sanell, Kim Opperman, Laurie Jutzi

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Park & Whittemore Streets: Luke Levesque said the work that was done on Park St. and Whittemore St. was exceptional, however, the curve on Whittemore Street, you cannot make that corner in your car if another is coming the other way. Chairman Bailey said on that corner, a correction was made and 15' of land was given back to the property owner. The Board will talk to Water & Sewer about the curve.

Streaming: Cathy Houle said a friend was streaming the Selectmen's meeting that was held at the Fire Station, she said the audio was difficult to hear as well as the visual. Selectman Pelletier asked if Town Meeting will be streamed. Ms. Buono doesn't feel she can monitor the streaming during the meeting. Selectman Pelletier asked if someone could be hired to monitor the streaming. Ms. Buono will contact the school to see if they can set up their owl for the Town Meeting.

2. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes dated February 11, 2026. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

3. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 20880 – 20914 a/k/a Vouchers 8 & 9 in the amount of \$283,826.00 (includes 253 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 035397 – 035448 in the amount of \$427,146.95. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda for February 25, 2026. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- Solar Exemption – Map 8 Lot 44

5. TOWN MEETING

Ms. Buono and the Board talked in preparation for town meeting. Selectman Pelletier said there should be some discussion with the residents about the upcoming water & sewer infrastructure projects, he feels not all residents are aware of what will be needed to upgrade the system. The

Board agreed to some discussion only because not everything is solidly known at this time. Angela Polochov asked if there is a town program available for sump pump hook ups to the new system. The Board said the plan has not yet been worked out.

6. TEEN CENTER

Selectman Pelletier asked in future budgets could the employees that work directly in the Teen Center be in only in that budget, he feels there was some confusion during the process because the Teen Center budget includes other aspects, such as Manahan Park. Ms. Buono said the Teen Center title is newly created, it was titled Youth Services. It is really part of Parks & Recreation; the Teen Center is part of recreation. Ms. Buono said she will work on it.

7. PUBLIC HEARING – PETITION FOR 5 MEMBER SELECTBOARD

Ms. Buono explained to the audience before the public hearing started the petition for a 5-member Selectboard needs to be on the voting ballot, not voted upon at town meeting, she is waiting for confirmation. Selectman Pelletier said this was also tried about 15 years ago, it passed but was disqualified because it was not done correctly.

Chairman Bailey opened the public hearing at 6:34 pm.

The author of the petition, Riche' Colcombe, said she feels it would be easier to separate assignments between 5 members versus 3 members, a five-member board would provide the members to talk outside of a meeting legally, and feels it is in the town's best interest to have a five-member board.

- Ron Houde said he agrees with Ms. Colcombe. He feels the town needs more board members to get more done and he feels the town is spending way too much money.
- Cathy Houle also agreed.
- Laurie Jutzi feels it is a valuable education for people to participate in the government. Making the Selectboard larger spreads the knowledge, she also thinks a student intern should be coming to the meetings from the High School for some credit.
- James Acciaro also agrees a 5 member Selectboard is a good idea.

Ms. Buono spoke about the comment made about having 5 Selectboard members and how 2 members could talk outside the meeting legally. Ms. Buono said she has served on a 5-member Selectboard, yes, it is legal to speak with another member but the practice is it's not ethical.

- Luke Levesque asked how many people signed up for the vacant Selectmen's position this March. Other than Selectwoman Campbell signing up for reelection, who else signed up, no one. If you can barely fill one seat how are 5 seats going to be filled.
- Ms. Colcombe said she has had many conversations with people who will not put their name on the ballot because they don't think they can beat the incumbent. She said she had been personally told not to put her name on the ballot because she would never beat the incumbent. A 5-member board will give people the opportunity.

Chairman Bailey after hearing no further comments closed the hearing at 6:42 pm.

8. STREAMING

Selectman Pelletier would like to have the town purchase a laptop for streaming meetings since currently the Town Administrator's personal laptop is used for the streaming. Ms. Buono said she will talk to IT for a price but said that although we budget for computers that need to be changed out, that line is typically budgeted to the penny and she did not include any additional computer outside of those slated for replacement. Keith Cobett said a decent laptop goes for about \$550 and said that if it's not a budgeted item, he would donate one from his business.

9. TOWN OF WINDSOR

Selectman Pelletier recommends forming a small committee to investigate what the town invoices Windsor for. Selectman Pelletier is not sure it is in the best interest of town to have the current agreement. He feels the committee membership should consist of the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Ms. Buono a Selectmen and a member of the community. Ms. Buono feels the other agreements should be looked at as well. The Board agreed to form the committee and Selectman Pelletier will serve on the committee as the Board's representative. Appointments to the committee will take place after town meeting.

10. BUDGET COMMITTEE – TOWN MEETING PETITION ARTICLE

The Selectmen talked about the membership at large for the budget committee if the warrant passes at town meeting. Members will be nominated that same evening for one year until the next election by the Moderator.

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey made a motion to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (e) Legal. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectwoman Campbell, Selectman Pelletier, Town Administrator Laura Buono.

Ms. Buono updated the Board regarding an existing issue.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to come out of nonpublic session at 8:19 p.m. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman