



Town of Skowhegan

January 13, 2026

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Municipal Building – Council Room

Selectboard Present:

Whitney Cunliffe, Chair (Absent)
Kevin Nelson, Vice Chair
Amber Lambke
Ethan Liberty
Elijah Soll

Staff:

Nicholas Nadeau, Town Manager
Angel Aguirre, Executive Secretary
Department Heads and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

1. Selectboard Vice Chair Kevin Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
2. **Town Manager's Report:** Announced the hiring of Deputy Fire Chief Anthony Barton, effective February 2026. Mr. Barton joins the Town from Augusta and is well regarded in the fire service profession. Advised that the FY27 budget process will begin earlier than in prior years, likely starting in February. A draft timeline will be presented at the next meeting.
3. **Department and Committee:**
Police Department – Chief Bucknam: Announced a joint critical incident exercise scheduled for January 21 involving the Police Department, National Guard, and Fire Department, with operations based out of the PD training room and exercises at the National Guard Armory. Reported additional joint tactical training on January 21 with Winslow Police Department at North Elementary to improve inter-agency coordination and staffing support. Reported a logging truck rollover on North Avenue near the bridge; no injuries occurred and the roadway was reopened. Noted a recent fatal DOT work-zone incident in Waterville and urged motorists to slow down, avoid distractions, and comply with traffic control in work zones.

Fire Department – Chief Johnston: Addressed public feedback regarding a recent property conservation response, clarifying the Fire Department's mission of life safety, property conservation, and incident stabilization. Explained that the department mitigates hazards such as water leaks but does not provide cleanup services. Welcomed Deputy Fire Chief Anthony Barton and highlighted his background and experience.

Water Pollution Control – Donnie Zaluski: Provided historical context on the Town's wastewater treatment system, noting proactive planning beginning in the early 1970s. Commended the Town's continued success and diligence in wastewater management and environmental stewardship.



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Highway Department – Jason Finley: Reported a demanding winter season with frequent snow and ice events. Noted increased usage of sand and salt compared to the prior year, with crews working extended hours. Reminded the public to use caution around plow operations and noted municipal vehicles may travel the wrong way on one-way streets during snow removal when necessary.

Town Clerk – Gail Pelotte: Reminded residents that dog registrations must be completed by January 31 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Noted the Town's first year using the State's new dog licensing system and that reminder calls will not be made this year. Acknowledged staff efforts assisting residents with the transition.

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None declared by Selectboard Members.
5. Selectboard Items: Members welcomed the new year and expressed appreciation for departments efforts. Positive remarks were shared regarding recent media coverage and community arts programming.
6. Items by the Public – A resident inquired about dog licensing requirements for a dog unable to receive vaccinations due to medical issues. Staff advised coordination with Animal Control for follow-up.

B. No Public Hearings

C. No Presentations

D. Consent Agenda:

1. Motion to approve minutes of the December 9, 2025 Selectboard Meeting as written.
Motion by Amber Lambke, second by Ethan Liberty. Approved 4-0.

E. Regular Agenda:

1. Motion to approve the renewal application for on-premises beer, wine, and spirits for Door Group LLC (Old Mill Pub).
Motion by Elijah Soll, second by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.
2. Motion to authorize Chief Bucknam to spend an amount not to exceed \$59,195 from the Police Capital Reserve Account: Cruiser Replacement designation to pay the first payment of the 2025 Police Interceptor payment, the safety and equipment outfit of the 2025 Police Interceptor, and the remaining balance of the 2024 Police Interceptor safety and equipment outfit.
Motion by Amber Lambke, second by Elijah Soll. Approved 4-0.



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3. Motion to approve application and permits for the following junkyards in the Town of Skowhegan for the following:

- a. David Folsom II
David & Daughters Towing, LLC
232 Rowe Rd
Skowhegan, ME 04976
- b. Brian Keyte
Kennebec Metal Recycling
14 Brown St.
Skowhegan, ME 04976
- c. Brian Keyte
Kennebec Metal Recycling
695 Canaan Rd
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Motion by Amber Lambke, second by Ethan Liberty. Approved 4-0.

4. Motion to allow Donnie Zaluski to waive the bid process to have the Downtown Business Area Surveyed by Olver Associates and expend the amount not to exceed \$30,00.00 from the WPCP Reserve Account, Sewer Collection System Upgrade.

Motion by Elijah Soll, second Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.

5. Motion to allow Donnie Zaluski to expend \$2010.51 from the Capital Reserve Account, Economic Development Sappi TIF/Sewer Plan Upgrade, for an ongoing survey for the Business District Storm and Sanitary Serer System to Olver Associates.

Motion by Amber Lambke, second by Ethan Liberty. Approved 4-0.

6. Motion to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Capacity Reserve Fee Account for the engineering services by Olver Associates for the Sewer/Catch Basin relocation on Madison Avenue and corner of Elm Street.

Motion by Elijah Soll, second by Ethan Liberty. Approved 4-0.

7. Motion to allow Jason Finley to go out to bid for the Madison Avenue and Elm Street combined Sewer Relocation Project.

Motion by Amber Lambke, second Elijah Soll. Approved 4-0.



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F. Motion to approve the warrants as written.

WARRANT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
45	\$47,513.73	FY 2026 State Payables
46	\$71,708.73	FY 2026 Payroll #50
47	\$125,755.31	FY 2026 Payroll #51
48	\$74,881.36	FY 2026 Payroll #52
49	\$893,336.16	FY2026 Accts Payable
50	\$88,784.55	FY 2026 Payroll #53
51	\$80,612.02	FY 2026 Payroll #1
52	\$5,155,176.33	FY 2026 Accts Payable
115	\$650.00	FY 2025 Accts Payable
Total	\$6,538,418.19	

Motion by Ethan Liberty, second by Elijah Sol. Approved 4-0.

G. Unfinished Business: FY27 budget timeline and departmental workshops (TIF and Transfer Station) anticipated for February. Updates pending regarding electric vehicle charging station research.

H. Other Business

Executive Session:

Motion to enter Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion by Kevin Nelson, second by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.

Motion to exit Executive Session.

Motion by Elijah Soll, second by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.

Motion to issue a warning to members who violate the Code of Ethics on selectboard appointed boards.

Motion by Elijah Soll, second by Ethan Liberty. Approved 4-0.

I. Adjourn Selectboard Meeting at 7:15.

Motion by Ethan Liberty, second by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.



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Prepared by:
Angel Aguirre
Executive Secretary
Date: January 21, 2025

Issued 27th
27 error
January 13, 2026

Approved and signed on January 27, 2026.

Walter G. Smith

Paul A. Nelson

Edwin L. Ledy

[Signature]

John C. [Signature]

A True Copy Attest: *Angel Aguirre*
Angel Aguirre, Executive Secretary