



Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Municipal Building – Council Room

Selectboard Present:

Whitney Cunliffe, Chair

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 Selectboard Meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

1. Chair Whitney Cunliffe called the meeting to order at 5:30.
2. Town Manager's Report: Nick reported that a weekend police incident was handled appropriately in coordination with the Attorney General's Office and thanked officers for their service, encouraging residents to remain vigilant. He noted that the fire chief had left the meeting to respond to a vehicle rollover and thanked the fire department for their continued response to numerous safety and medical calls. Regarding the church-operated homeless shelter, Nick clarified that the town's involvement is limited to addressing life safety code violations and encouraged residents to approach the issue with compassion toward vulnerable individuals.

3. Department and Committee Reports:

Police Department – Chief Bucknam: Thanked residents and local businesses for their strong support of the police department following the weekend incident, noting the positive impact on officers and their families. He reported continued traffic enforcement efforts, including addressing excessive speeding on Madison Avenue and Middle Road. He also clarified that a recent Border Patrol operation in town was not a Skowhegan Police operation, involved no ICE agents, and that he was present to ensure public safety.

Highway Department – Jason Finley: Addressed the previously discussed removal of the Red Bridge Removal. Town Manager, Nick explained that although the board had selected a contractor in June, the decision was not properly reflected in the minutes and required formal action for clarity and transparency. He recommended accepting a \$38,500 quote from Bonneau & Son Excavation, noting the contractor is local and



within \$500 of the lowest bid, consistent with the town's purchasing policy. It was also stated that the Town of Canaan is expected to cover half the cost and would confirm funding before proceeding. Jason reiterated the importance of winter removal due to debris recovery from the ice.

Motion to authorize Jason Finley to proceed with the Red Bridge removal project with Bono & Sons Excavation in the amount of \$38,500. *Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 5-0.*

Jason's final announcement was a note that posting of heavy load road limit signs will be posted at the end of the month and advised residents to complete any hauling before restrictions take effect, as loads will not be permitted once limits are in place.

Town Clerk – Gail Pelotte: Informed the board that she will be contacting residents who still owe 2024 property taxes, as the foreclosure deadline is Monday, February 23. She noted that tax payments have been slow and that notices have been mailed, though mail delivery times may vary. She also shared that at the next meeting the board will formally set the date for the town meeting and municipal election, which coincides with the state primary. At that time, she expects to announce when nomination papers will be available.

Transfer Station – Cindy Kirk: Shared that she was out much of January due to health issues and thanked Nick for checking in on her. She praised her staff for keeping operations running smoothly in her absence. She reported that operations are going well, cardboard intake is increasing, and the downtown trailer is working effectively and being emptied regularly. She is still seeking a suitable location for a second trailer and invited suggested locations.

Economic Development – Bryan Belleveau: Reported that the municipal building stair shoring project is underway, with support beams delivered and staged. The stairwell will remain closed through the end of the week. Due to the building's age and engineering specifications, adjustments can only be made a quarter inch per week, making the project an estimated 9–10 week process. He also shared that the town has transitioned to a new phone service contract to save several thousand dollars annually. The public safety and municipal buildings are now online, with remaining departments scheduled for completion the following day.

Lastly, he noted that the Masons Lodge project, funded through a TIF grant, is underway. An inspection is scheduled before releasing grant funds, and approved checks will be held until work is completed and verified.



4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None declared by Selectboard Members.
 5. Selectboard Items: Amber Lambke acknowledged the many ongoing challenges in town, noting that the current events can feel overwhelming for residents and staff. She expressed sympathy for those affected by violence and loss, emphasizing the importance of open communication and community support in maintaining resilience and humanity. She concluded by encouraging everyone to take care of themselves and each other. Fellow selectboard concurred.
- B. Items by the Public – Randy Gray, former Code Enforcement Officer for Skowhegan, began by expressing support for the police department, acknowledging the difficulty of the weekend incident and the impact on officers and their families. He then addressed the church-operated shelter, emphasizing that the building was never intended to house families—it was never approved for residential use. He cited multiple safety violations, including lack of proper fire suppression, hardwired smoke detectors, and commercial cooking in a non-commercial space. Randy stressed that the town must back the code enforcement officer, police, and fire departments in enforcing regulations and closing the building to prevent potential loss of life. He urged immediate action, noting that compassion cannot override public safety.
- C. No Public Hearings
- D. Consent Agenda:
1. Motion to approve minutes from the Selectboard Meeting – January 27, 2026 & January 30, 2026. *Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Elijah Soll. Approved 5-0.*
- E. Regular Agenda:
1. Motion to approve renewal application for On-Premises: Beer, Wine & Spirits for Barticus, Inc for Southside Tavern. *Motion by Elijah Soll, seconded by Ethan Liberty. Approved 5-0.*
 2. Motion to approve Baxter Brew Pub LLC a Special Event for Main Street Skowhegan to serve alcohol at a one-day event at the Skowhegan State Fair Grounds from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. *Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Ethan Liberty. Approved 5-0.*
 3. Motion to authorize Jason Finley and Nick Nadeau to execute and expend the close sale agreement of \$16,000 for the turnaround parcel at 153 Red Bridge Rd. from the Sale of Town Owned Property Capital Reserve. *Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Ethan Liberty. Approved 5-0.*



4. Motion to authorize Cynthia Kirk to spend an amount not to exceed \$38,973.73 from the Solid Waste Management & Recycling Equipment Capital Reserve for the purchase of a forklift and clamp. *Motion by Ethan Liberty, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 5-0.*
5. Motion to accept the resignation of Paula Doughty with appreciation from the Parks and Recreation Committee. *Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 5-0.*
6. Motion to remove Adrian Sincyr from Planning Board Committee due to lack of attendance (six consecutive missed meetings), per the Planning Board Ordinance. *Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Elijah Aoll. Approved 5-0.*

F. Motion to approve the warrants as written.

	WARRANT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
	58	\$80,788.19	FY 2026 Payroll #4
	60	\$80,132.35	FY 2026 Payroll #5
	61	\$1,417,154.58	FY2026 Accts. Payable
Total		\$1,578,075.12	

Motion by Elijah Soll, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 5-0.

G. Upcoming Meetings

Transfer Station Workshop: February 12th – 1pm @ Town Hall

Planning Board Meeting: February 17th – 6pm @ Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals: February 19th – 10am @ Town Hall

Regular Selectboard Meeting: February 24th – 5:30pm @ Town Hall

TIF Educational Workshop: Planned for late March/Early April.

H. No other Business

I. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. *Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Ethan Liberty. Approved 5-0.*

Prepared by:

Angel Aguirre

Executive Secretary

Date: February 12, 2026



Approved and signed on Angel Aguirre.

Wendy Lipp

Tom Mullen

Edward Lodge

John Conner

[Signature]

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