



**Special Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 5:30 PM
Municipal Building – Large Conference Room**

Selectboard:

Whitney Cunliffe, Chairman
Kevin Nelson, Vice Chairman
Amber Lambke
Ethan Liberty
Elijah Soll

Staff:

Nicholas Nadeau, Town Manager
Angel Aguirre, Executive Secretary

- A. Call Selectboard Meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance
1. Chair Whitney Cunliffe called the meeting to order at 5:30.
- B. Consent Agenda:
1. Motion to approve minutes from the Selectboard Meeting February 24, 2026. ***Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Ethan Liberty. Approved 5-0.***
- C. Budget Workshop:
1. Assessing Department: Cara Mason reported minimal changes. Increases are primarily due to health insurance (12%) and dental (5%) adjustments. The reserve account was restored to \$15,000 to prepare for future revaluation needs, as major revaluations are required approximately every ten years; the Town's current assessment ratio is 91%. The Selectboard also discussed concerns raised by residents regarding perceived disparities between residential and commercial property assessments. Cara explained that values are based on market sales data and encouraged property owners to request formal reviews if they believe adjustments are warranted.
 2. Parks & Recreation Department: Denise reported budget reflects an overall 3.1% decrease, despite increases in wages, benefits, utilities, fuel, and maintenance associated with new athletic facilities. Notable adjustments include higher portable toilet rental costs, restoration of a maintenance line item, capital reserve funding for replacement of a 2012 truck, and an additional \$15,000 designated for maintenance of the new baseball/multi-purpose field. Capital reserve balances were reviewed based on the most recent reconciliation. The Selectboard discussed the potential for future facility rental revenue related to the new field, though no revenue has been projected at this time, as well as irrigation pond capacity and long-term utility considerations.
 3. Social Services/Third-Party Requests:
 - a. Skowhegan Free Public Library requested \$208,000.00, consistent with the prior year. Although the Library's overall budget decreased by approximately \$13,000 due to the elimination of two part-time positions, primary expenses remain payroll, benefits, and



building utilities. Trustees reported approximately \$2.1 million in trust assets across 36 restricted funds, generating about \$30,000 annually in interest to support operations. The library carries no outstanding liabilities and continues to report strong community usage, including telehealth services, programming, a food pantry, and youth services. Trustees expressed interest in building a capital improvement reserve to prepare for future roof replacement.

- b. Main Street Skowhegan requested \$85,000, a 2.4% increase. The organization operates on a \$1.2 million budget, with the Town contributing approximately 7%, below the one-third funding model typical of Main Street agreements. Over the past ten years, Main Street reported raising \$16.1 million, estimating a \$22 return on investment per Town dollar. Key initiatives include the Skowhegan Outdoors AmeriCorps program, the Center for Entrepreneurship, and downtown redevelopment projects. The Selectboard discussed potentially allocating a portion of funding from the Downtown TIF until its sunset in 2035 rather than solely from the general fund, noting alignment with Downtown TIF criteria. Main Street also reported growth in private donations, foundation grants, and earned revenue. An update on the River Park project indicated boardwalk construction is expected to begin in April, with additional fundraising ongoing for the whitewater component. Earned revenues continue to be a need they are working toward.
- c. Motion to enter Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter. **Motion by Ethan Liberty, seconded by Amber Lambke. Approved 5-0.**
- d. Motion to exit Executive Session. **Motion by Ethan Liberty, seconded by Amber Lambke. Approved 5-0.**

D. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Warrants. **Motion by Elijah Soll, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 5-0.**

WARRANT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
66	\$82,737.30	FY 2026 Payroll #8
Total	\$82,737.30	

E. Upcoming Meetings

Regular Selectboard Meeting: March 10th – 5:30pm @ Town Hall

Special Selectboard Meeting: March 17th -5:30pm @ Lower Conference Room

Planning Board Meeting: March 17th -7:00pm at Town Hall

