



**Regular Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 5:30 PM
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Selectboard:

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

Staff:

Nicholas Nadeau, Town Manager
Angel Aguirre, Executive Secretary

- A. Chair Whitney Cunliffe called the meeting to order at 5:30.
- B. Town Manager’s Report: Nick Nadeau reported he has been heavily involved in budget work and did not have an extensive report. He reminded residents that despite recent warm days, winter weather is not over, forecasts called for freezing rain and possible snow later in the week and urged residents not to remove snow tires yet and to drive according to road conditions for safety.
- C. Department and Committee Reports:

Police Department – Chief Bucknam reported that sidewalks are clear of snow and ice, and residents should use sidewalks rather than walking in the roadway when sidewalks are available. Walking in the road where a sidewalk is present is a civil infraction; warnings are over and he will begin issuing tickets to pedestrians on Madison Avenue who fail to use the sidewalk. He cited multiple pedestrian accidents over the last year to year-and-a-half as the reason this must stop. He also noted an increase in speeding, as roads have cleared, and asked drivers to obey posted speed limits for everyone’s safety.

Pollution Control – Donnie Zaluski reported that the department has been camera-inspecting a potentially discontinued line near the bridge by The Skowhegan Hotel and Bloomfield’s Tavern. They faced challenging conditions due to heavy truck traffic. The camera robot encountered ice in the line, limiting how far it could travel, but staff hope to gather enough data to assess the pipe’s condition and decide on an in-house repair plan. At the treatment plant, operations are going well, with stabilized treatment and strong performance numbers.

Economic & Community Development / SEDC – Renaissance Building: Bryan Belliveau reported the building project in the Town Hall is wrapping up, with only finishing work remaining. The SEDC Board met and has asked that the Selectboard consider the future of the Renaissance Building, currently owned



by Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), a separate tax entity. SEDC is asking the town to consider acquiring the building “by some means.” No decision was requested at this meeting; this was an initial notification.

Discussion points raised were operating costs & deficit with the building is running an approximate \$40,000 annual deficit and a market demand for the existing office configuration, and the building is difficult to reconfigure to more profitable layouts. The building is viewed as important to the neighborhood, and public reaction to past restroom closures showed that residents strongly value public restroom access downtown. Selectboard members expressed concern that they did not yet have detailed financials (P&L, full data) and requested that the Renaissance Building be placed on a future formal agenda with supporting documents for a structured discussion, including options such as town acquisition, private sale, or sale to abutters. Chief Bucknam noted that since the implementation of the Community Resource Officer (CRO) downtown, calls for service related to people hanging out or loitering in certain areas have dropped significantly.

Town Clerk: Gail Pelotte reported property taxes are due Monday, March 16. The usual sign out front is not currently up, but the office has been very busy processing payments in recent days. Nomination papers remain available; there are four school board seats. A third person has taken out papers, but at least one current member has indicated they will not run again, leaving potential vacancies. The Clerk encouraged additional residents to consider taking out papers.

- D. There were no conflicts of interest disclosures.
- E. The Selectboard didn't have any items for this meeting.
- F. Items by the Public:

Janet Mayhew raised concerns about ordinance enforcement, property maintenance issues, and cannabis cultivation in town, including a proposed grow site on Route 201. She asked about opportunities for residents to provide input and expressed frustration with the pace of ordinance updates. Town officials explained that draft ordinances addressing cannabis and camping are currently being developed and will go through legal review, public hearings, and a Town Meeting vote. Officials also noted plans to improve ordinance reviews through the Town's new e-code system. Janet additionally suggested better promotion of the high school's annual volunteer cleanup day to assist residents with property cleanup.

John Grohs raised concerns about private trash haulers not recycling and instead disposing of recyclables as trash, resulting in additional costs to the Town. He



suggested requiring haulers to recycle or pay a fair share of tipping fees and recommended forming a committee to review waste and recycling practices to help reduce taxpayer costs.

The Board noted that a recent workshop was recently held to review the issue and that a third-party consultant will be brought in to analyze the Town's waste and recycling system and provide recommendations for next steps.

Chris White provided an update on ATV trail work, including coordination with Norridgewock to reopen a trail connection into Skowhegan and exploration of a new route toward Cornville. The club plans to pursue additional state grants for trail development, similar to funding received last year, and is exploring partnerships with local businesses to attract ATV visitors to town. Board members expressed support for these efforts.

- G. There were no public hearings.
- H. There were no presentations.
- I. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Motion to approve minutes from the Selectboard Meeting March 03, 2026.
Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 4-0.
- J. Regular Agenda:
 - 1. Motion to authorize the deposit of \$5,160.75 into the Capital Reserve Account-Public Works-Equipment. ***Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 4-0.***
 - 2. Motion to allow Donnie Zaluski to expend \$9600 from the water Pollution control, Capital Reserve Account, Equipment Maintenance & Repair, E-60-01-65-02 to Provencal Plumbing for piping rehabilitation of the chlorine storage and delivery system. ***Motion by Amber Lamke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 4-0.***
 - 3. Motion to authorize the annual interest payment to the Women's Aid Society in the amount of \$1,310.90. ***Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Elijah Soll. Approved 4-0.***
 - 4. Motion to authorize the deposit of the MDOT check in the amount of \$3000 in the Sale of Town Owned Property Reserve. ***Motion by Amber Lambke, seconded by Kevin Nelson. Approved 4-0.***



K. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

Motion to approve treasurer warrants. *Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Elijah Soll.*
Approved 4-0.

WARRANT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
67	\$73,249.51	FY 2026 Payroll #9
68	\$3,639,663.52	FY 2026 Accts Payable
Total	\$ 3,712,913.03	

L. Upcoming Meetings

Special Selectboard Meeting: March 17th- 5:30pm @ Town Hall
Special Selectboard Meeting: March 24, 2026 -5:30pm @ Town Hall
TIF Educational Workshop: March/April: TBA @Town Hall

M. Other Business: Budget Workshop

SEDC: Bryan Belliveau explained that the Economic Development and Municipal Building offices have been restructured, including the elimination of an administrative position, resulting in cost savings. Operating budget adjustments include a reduction in electricity from \$24,000 to \$20,000, partly offset by revenue from building lighting, and heating costs estimated using actual usage from November through July, with a modest \$1,000 increase for fuel. General maintenance was reduced by \$1,000, landscaping removed due to contractual coverage, and the travel budget cut to \$200 since much vehicle use is covered by the CEO truck. Training costs are higher due to participation in the Alford grant program, though grants are expected to offset some expenses, and office supplies and postage have increased to support industrial waste surveys and potential project work. GIS mapping costs have decreased, as major mapping work has been completed. Capital reserves have been adjusted, with the Municipal Building reserve reduced from approximately \$129,000 to \$75,500, and no current funding allocated for the Opera House or Community Development Office. The focus remains on exterior building maintenance and leveraging potential grants. Building permit fees are projected to increase by about \$17,000, with an additional \$4,000 allocated for Conservation Commission requests. Board members emphasized the importance of accurate budgeting and setting fees at levels that maintain services while balancing impacts on taxpayers.

Pollution Control: Donnie Zaluski provided a thorough review of the department's budget, emphasizing detailed line-item tracking, reserves, and long-term planning.



He highlighted that two-thirds of costs are utilities, personnel, and disposal, with the remaining third covering maintenance and repairs. Key initiatives include reducing overtime, optimizing chemical and energy usage through real-time automation, and reinvesting savings into infrastructure upgrades and in-house equipment to extend the life of aging assets, some dating back to 1972. Capital reserves support building maintenance, equipment replacement, and energy efficiency projects, with funding carefully allocated to anticipate future needs. Donnie also stressed the importance of implementing fair commercial and industrial fees to offset costs from high-impact users, ensuring tax fairness and financial sustainability. Overall, the strategy focuses on operational efficiency, cost recovery, preventative maintenance, and long-term financial stability while leveraging grants, automation, and energy savings to maximize resources.

General Assistance: Nick Nadeau reported General Assistance is a state-required program where the town provides aid to eligible residents and is reimbursed 70% of expenditures. The program is administered by qualified staff, follows state guidelines, and includes administrative costs. Spending less reduces town costs while still receiving reimbursement, and the budget and funding remain consistent with prior years.

- N. Motion to adjourn Selectboard Meeting. ***Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.***



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N. Motion to adjourn Selectboard Meeting. **Motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Amber Lambke. Approved 4-0.**

Prepared by:

Angel Aguirre

Executive Secretary

Date: March 12, 2026

Approved and signed on Mar. 17, 2025.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

A True Copy Attest: [Signature]

Angel Aguirre. Executive Secretary