



TOWN OF WARNER

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Select Board: Harry Seidel, Chairman
Alfred Hanson, Vice Chair
Michael J. Smith
Kathleen Frenette, Town Administrator

INSERT NON PUBLIC MINUTES

A. 4:24 PM Open the meeting / Roll Call: Alfred Hanson and Harry Seidel

B. Non-public session, RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. CANCELED

C. Non-public session RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself.

The Select Board returned to public session at 4:52 PM.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to recess the meeting until 6:00 PM. Motion Passed

Select Board Public Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026 6:00 PM

I. Open the Public Meeting / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harry Seidel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Select Board present: Chairman Harry Seidel, Vice Chair Alfred Hanson and Mike J. Smith via Zoom.

Public present: Elizabeth Labbe, Ian Rogers, Martha Mical, Russ Smith, Nancy Martin, Barb Marty, Charlie Albano, Sara McNeil, Christine Frost, Karen Coyne, Sam Carr

II. Select Board Business:

1. Department Heads: Elizabeth Labbe:

i. Updated Vets Credit Warrant Article language

Elizabeth Labbe provided a draft of the warrant article to update the disabled veteran tax credit. She explained that the state law has changed to no longer allow the veteran to receive both the disabled veteran tax credit and the standard veteran tax credit. The warrant article increases the disabled veteran tax credit to equal the amount of both the standard and the disabled. The Select Board accepted the updated warrant article language for the Disabled Veteran Tax Credit previously discussed and voted on.

ii. Request To Adopt RSA 31:105 and 31:106

Elizabeth Labbe explained that legal counsel is encouraging the Town to adopt RSA 31:105 and 31:106 out of an abundance of caution. She stated that it would be a good idea to affirm RSA 31:105. Barb Marty advised the Select Board that the RSA refers to accidental injury to a person, accidental damage or destruction of property. Barb Marty stated that the Town would need to have insurance and she questioned if the Select Board considered the expense to the Town. She noted that this would need to be adopted at Town Meeting. Elizabeth Labbe explained that attorney Steve Buckley was quite clear that this is specifically for the Human Services Director to go out and do home visits. Barb Marty disagreed and she urged the Select Board to research this more in depth. Elizabeth Labbe suggested that she would table this and provide the

1 Select Board with the opinion of Attorney Steve Buckley. Mike Smith expressed concern regarding the
2 language that refers to reimbursement.

3
4 iii. Suppressing On-Line Assessing Records, Policy and Procedure

5 Elizabeth Labbe advised the Select Board that all property record files are public information. She stated
6 that this establishes a clear policy outlining how the town would handle a request to expunge information
7 from the online database. The Select Board will review the policy submitted for their review.

8
9 2. School Voucher Petition for Town Meeting Warrant Article, Charlie Albano

10 Charlie Albano addressed the Select Board regarding the Education of Freedom Account also known as
11 school vouchers. He spoke about the potential tax increase of the implementation of this program. Charlie
12 Albano explained that the Educational Freedom Act is redirecting money from public schools to the private
13 sector. He stated that a citizen's petition is being submitted as concerns grow around the state regarding the
14 Educational Freedom Account (EFA). He stated that the EFA will cost the Kearsarge Regional School
15 District over \$600,000 in this year's school budget. He explained that the funds will be used for vouchers.

16
17 Charlie Albano stated that the Towns within the district will need to raise these additional funds to keep the
18 budget level. He stated that reallocation of state funding is a threat to public education and will increase
19 taxes. He explained that when a student switches to the voucher program the state contribution to public
20 education is diverted from the local school to the Children's Scholarship Fund. The Children's Scholarship
21 Fund is a New York Based organization that manages New Hampshire's EFA program. He noted that the
22 EFA reimburses the student's family for eligible expenses including private and religious education schools,
23 homeschooling expenses, educational supplies, transportation, tutoring and other extra curriculum activities.

24
25 Charlie Albano informed the Select Board that last year over 20 towns in NH submitted citizen's petition to
26 protest the use of public funding to pay on average \$5,000 per child who are no longer in the public school
27 system. He pointed out that at the start of the year there were 10,520 students which was up by 5,321 from
28 last year. He explained that the day after the legislature dropped the eligibility requirements the number of
29 EFA applicants quadrupled. He added that the legislature also has the capacity to increase it again, both
30 number of students and dollars. Charlie Albano stated that funding EFA children redirects over \$100 million
31 dollars from the state's education fund to private education. Charlie Albano read the citizen's petition
32 (attached). He asked the Select Board to consider supporting the warrant article. In closing Charlie Albano
33 stated that the number of students in 2024 were 92 in the school district and when the eligibility was
34 eliminated the number of students increased to 173. He explained that the Town of Warner had 20 students in
35 2024 and now there are 33 students. Charlie Albano explained that Warner's portion of the \$631,000 is
36 \$123,932. Charlie Albano stated that currently there are approximately 100 signatures and more will be
37 submitted prior to the deadline of February 3, 2026. He explained that voters at Town Meeting will be asked
38 to vote on the citizen's petition. Elizabeth Labbe noted that there is a comment online (Mary) who stated
39 that this is not appropriate and feels this is a biased opinion. Harry Seidel and Alfred Hanson both expressed
40 their support for the petition.

41
42 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to support the citizen's petition regarding**
43 **property taxes for private education a call for responsible use. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES**
44 **Smith YES**

45
46 3. State Property for Sale, First Right of Refusal to Warner, Tim Blagden

47 Harry Seidel read a letter from Tim Blagden from the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail who
48 was unable to attend the meeting. The letter advised the Select Board that in August of 2024 the rail trail
49 filed documentation and sent a deposit of \$500 asking the NH DOT to declare Map 28 Lot 33 as surplus. The

1 NH Housing Authority has the first right of refusal and they have declined the parcel. The Town of Warner
2 has the next right of first refusal. The Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail is willing to purchase
3 the parcel. The DOT recognizes the public benefit and is willing to sell the parcel to them without going to
4 auction. The Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail are requesting that the Town save their money
5 and decline the property and allow the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail to purchase the
6 property.
7

8 Harry Seidel explained that a map and pictures of the area has been provided. Harry Seidel explained that the
9 purchase price is \$10,000 if the Town wanted to buy it. Harry Seidel stated that he is supportive of the
10 purchase by the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. Alfred Hanson explained that he is not
11 ready to move on this as he has questions on the language. Alfred Hanson would like to table the decision.
12 Mike Smith explained that he is supportive of this request. Mike Smith agreed that parcel is unusable. Barb
13 Marty noted that the letter was sent to the Town on January 2, 2026 and they would like an answer within 30
14 days.
15

16 Elizabeth Labbe read an online comment from Dawn Quirk who stated that this needs to be brought to the
17 Conservation Committee and a site visit needs to occur. Mike Smith explained that he has visited the site
18 and he reiterated that the property is useless to the State and the Town but it is useful to the rail trail.
19

20 Christine Frost asked if the Town is even in a position to purchase this property. Harry Seidel stated that the
21 Town does not have funds to purchase a gully. Alfred Hanson questioned the deposit of \$500. Harry Seidel
22 explained that it was an investment that the rail trail made to purchase the parcel.
23

24 Elizabeth Labbe stated that another online comment from Dawn Quirk was posted. Sara McNeil stated that
25 public comments online should not take precedence.
26

27 Charlie Albano stated that Tim Blagden should be here to present his case. Harry Seidel stated that the Town
28 has first refusal.
29

30 Mike Smith suggested the Town could purchase the property with the stipulation that the Rail Trail
31 reimburses the town.
32

33 Barb Marty agreed with Dawn Quirk that the Conservation Commission should be consulted. She stressed
34 that if the Town decides to purchase a piece of property there is a process that must be followed. She
35 explained that the town must offer the property to everyone. Barb Marty explained that the buyer must
36 commission a land surveyor as is stipulated in the letter from the State of NH. She stated that there are other
37 additional expenses.
38

39 Karen Coyne agreed that the Board should table the discussion until Tim Blagden can present his
40 information.
41

42 Sam Carr on Zoom, stated that the Town is not in a position to purchase the property.
43

44 The Select Board agreed to send a letter to the State requesting additional time.
45

- 46 4. Letter to request the state to allow public input on the impact on Warner of the proposed
47 mountain bike project in Rollins Park on Mt Kearsarge, Nancy Martin

1 Harry Seidel stated that a request has been made by the Conservation Commission and other town residents
2 to ask for more input from residents regarding the proposed mountain bike trail on Mount Kearsarge. Harry
3 Seidel read the draft letter requesting the state allow public input.

4
5 Sam Carr on Zoom, stated that the letter sounds a bit negative in its assumptions about the impact. He stated
6 that the project could have positive economic impacts on the town. He supports the request for input in the
7 process.

8
9 Martha Mical explained that this activity is hazardous and the Town of Warner will be impacted by
10 ambulance expenses. She stated that something needs to be put in place that the Town will not be responsible
11 for the ambulance costs.

12
13 Barb Marty stated that she supports the tone of the letter because the State is moving ahead without any input
14 from the Town.

15
16 Sara McNeil stated that she supports the letter and appreciates the attempt to protect the Town.

17
18 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to send the letter to the Department of**
19 **Natural Resources and Cultural Resources pertaining to the mountain bike trail. Roll Call Vote**
20 **Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

21
22 5. Electrical Quotes: Power to the Town Hall Sprinkler Compressor, Transfer Station lighting
23 Harry Seidel explained that they have received 3 quotes for the town hall sprinkler compressor.

24 Sprinkler System:

25 Harry Seidel recapped the quotes: Harry-O Electric in Pittsfield for \$800, KM Electric LLC for \$625. Harry
26 Seidel noted that KM Electric is owned by a Warner resident. This quote includes labor and materials. The
27 estimate does not include the cost of an electrical permit. He stated the third quote is for \$6,000 - \$7,000
28 with a deposit of \$2,500. Harry Seidel appreciates that KM Electric is owned by a Warner resident and that it
29 is a reasonable quote. Alfred Hanson questioned the wide range in quotes inquiring if the scope of work is
30 misunderstood. He would like to speak to Travis for clarification. Harry Seidel would like to approve this so
31 that the sprinkler system can be hooked up.

32
33 Transfer Station lighting:

34 KM Electric LLC \$2,980 includes \$300 for the repair of a ceiling fan. Harry-O Electric submitted a quote
35 for \$6,650 for the lighting.

36
37 The Select Board agreed to speak to Travis regarding the other project and quote.

38 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to award the contract to K M Electric LLC**
39 **for the wiring of the new compressor. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

40
41 6. Approval of the 2026 Holiday Schedule
42 The Select Board reviewed and approved the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

43
44 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule. Roll**
45 **Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

46
47 7. Warner Historical Society Raffle Permit request
48

1 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the Warner Historical Society**
2 **raffle permit request for 2026. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

3
4 **III. Public Comment**

5 Ginger Marsh spoke about the homeless encampment on North Road on town owned property. She advised
6 the Select Board that the encampment is growing and additional cars are now added. Martha Mical suggested
7 a police escort to visit the property.

8
9 **IV. Consent Agenda:**

10 None

11
12 **V. Manifest: January 20, 2026**

13 Motion for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifests:

14 1252 through 12187 dated January 12, 2026 in the amount of \$101,586.61

15 Accounts payable check number 12188 through 12197 dated January 13, 2026 in the amount of \$412,989.38

16 Accounts payable check number 12198 through 12221 dated January 14, 2026 in the amount of \$17,252

17 A motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and order the treasurer to sign the following manifests

18 Accounts payable check numbers 12223 through 12225 dated January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$60,506.42
19 for the January 22, 2026 bi-weekly payroll deposits.

20 Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4177 through 4188 and the direct deposit check numbers E02965 through
21 E02997 dated January 22, 2026 for the net payroll of \$45,208.85

22 **Alfred Hanson made motion seconded by Harry Seidel to approve the manifest as read. Roll Call Vote**
23 **Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

24 Harry Seidel stated that the Trustee of the Trust Funds as submitted a request for funds, he read the request
25 from Robert Blake.

26 *Please consider this formal request for funds in the amount of \$1,876.85 from the DPW Facilities*

27 *Improvement CRF to pay for the attached invoices from the Culvert Technologies for the installation of one*
28 *security camera. Please make the check payable to the Town of Warner.*

29 The Select Board will review and sign the requests.

30
31 **VI. Minutes: December 15, 2025 Clarify Avitar Discussion; December 30, 2025 and January 6, 2026**
32 **December 15, 2025**

33 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the December 15, 2025 Select**
34 **Board meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

35
36 December 30, 2025

37 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the December 30, 2025 Select**
38 **Board meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

39
40 January 6, 2026

41 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to approve the January 6, 2026 Select Board**
42 **meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

43
44 **VII. Select Board Other Business**

45 Harry Seidel addressed a question that he was asked, does the deputy tax collector need to be a resident of
46 Warner. He referenced RSA 41:38 *"The tax collector shall appoint a deputy, with the approval of the*
47 *selectmen, who shall be sworn, give bond, have the powers of tax collectors and may be removed at the*
48 *pleasure of the tax collector. The deputy shall perform such duties as are assigned to him or her by the tax*
49 *collector"*. Harry Seidel stated that there is nothing in RSA 41:38 that pertains to residency.

1
2 Harry Seidel stated that the Select Board needs to decide on the request from Ed Mical regarding the
3 Emergency Management revolving fund in the amount of \$6,500. Alfred Hanson explained that he will be
4 meeting with Ed Mical in the near future.

5 Harry Seidel also wants to follow up on the Eversource street light issue.
6

7 Harry Seidel spoke about the carryover of unused hours for employees. He stated that the new personnel
8 policy allows employees to carryover 80 hours but there are a handful of employees that will lose time.
9 Alfred Hanson stated that the policy has already been determined for 2026. Harry Seidel explained that he is
10 torn because this time that has been earned. Martha Mical asked if employees can cash out the time not
11 used. Elizabeth Labbe explained that is specifically addressed in the personnel policy to a certain amount.
12

13 The Select Board discussed a request and motion provided by Kimberly Edlemann Tax Collector pertaining
14 to electronic payment of taxes.
15

16 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson as permitted by RSA 80:52 c Electronic**
17 **Payment hereby authorize the Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector to accept payment of local**
18 **taxes and other fees or charges by use of a credit card, debit card or such other means of electronic**
19 **transaction. Roll Call Vote Hanson NO Seidel NO Smith NO**
20

21 *Discussion on the motion:* Russ Smith suggested amending the motion to include language about the
22 credit card fees being the responsibility of the consumer and not the Town. The Select Board agreed to table
23 this discussion and have the motion edited to clarify the credit card fees.
24

25 Harry Seidel stated that the Town's tree policy needs to wait for the new DPW Director to be ready.
26

27 **VIII. Non-Public Session** if needed (RSA 91-A:3 II (a-m))
28

29 None
30

31 **IX. Adjournment**

32 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to adjourn the January 20, 2026 Select Board**
33 **meeting. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**
34

35 The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

36 Respectfully submitted on 1/25/26 by Tracy Doherty