

# TOWN OF WARNER



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Select Board: Michael Smith, Chair  
Faith Minton  
Harry Seidel  
Kathleen Frenette, Town Administrator

## Select Board Meeting DRAFT Minutes February 25, 2025 6:00 PM

Lower Meeting Room Warner Town Hall 5 E Main St

### I. Open the Meeting and Roll Call

Harry Seidel called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: Faith Minton, Harry Seidel, Mike Smith (via Zoom) and Kathy Frenette.

**Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to include Mike Smith via Zoom. Motion passed unanimously.**

### II. Public Hearing

Are you in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members?  
RSA 41:8-b Petition and Ballot, RSA 41:8-c Public Hearing,  
RSA 41:8-e Effective Date and Manner of Increase or Decrease

Harry Seidel opened the public hearing.

#### a. Information

Harry Seidel asked if there was anyone in attendance who wanted to present the petition warrant article. There was no one. Harry Seidel read RSA 41:8-e. *If a town votes to enlarge or to decrease its board of selectmen the change does not take effect in either case until the first annual meeting following the meeting at which the questions were acted upon. If the town votes to enlarge the board to 5 members, at the first annual meeting following the meeting when the action was taken the town shall elect 2 members for a 3-year term and one member for a one-year term. At the next succeeding annual meeting 2 members shall be elected for a 3-year term, at the next following annual meeting one member shall be elected for a 3-year term, and at succeeding annual meetings members shall be elected to fill the vacancies regularly occurring. If a town votes to decrease its board to 3 members, at the annual meeting following the meeting at which it so voted, the terms of office of all members of the board of selectmen shall end and the town shall elect 3 members of the board of selectmen, one for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years and at all succeeding annual meetings shall elect a member to the board for a 3-year term.*

#### b. Open Public Comment

Martha Bodnarik stated that her question was answered by the reading of the RSA, which outlined how the town could go back to a three member board if a five member board does not work out.

Russ Smith asked how the current Select Board feels about increasing to a five member board. Harry Seidel explained that they previously discussed the idea, and the Select Board was not in favor of it. Harry Seidel recapped his personal thoughts (pros and cons) of a three member board versus a five member board. Faith Minton recapped her thoughts and concerns about increasing to a five-member board. Mike Smith concurred with Harry and Faith.

1 Martha Bodnarik stated that the size of Warner has not increased but the age of the residents has. She stated  
2 that those who are serving on the boards are older and could be more susceptible to health issues and a five  
3 member board would be less affected.

4  
5 Andy Bodnarik asked what happens if the Town votes for a five member board but is unable to fill all five  
6 seats. He asked if those seats would be filled by appointment and if so by who. Judy Newman-Rogers via  
7 Zoom stated there usually is a RSA that explains how to fill vacancies.

8  
9 Christine Frost stated that in her experience having been a Select Board member the amount of work is  
10 enormous and spreading that around to more members would be advantageous. She spoke about the  
11 knowledge needed and the amount of time needed to understand your role. She stated that a five-member  
12 board would create a depth of people who have the knowledge would be of benefit to the town. Christine  
13 Frost spoke about the idea of increasing costs for the town by having five members. She stated a few years  
14 back she suggested the Select Board not receive payment. She believes that due to the amount of knowledge  
15 needed it might be easier to find volunteers if they know they can learn over time.

16  
17 John Leavitt asked why it is important to have consensus on the Select Board. He stated that he thinks there  
18 is too much consensus on the board. He stated that votes are usually 3-0 and a five member board would give  
19 a diversity of opinions. He stated that currently there is work that is not being done that is required by state  
20 statute. He does not think finding people to fill the seats will be an issue. He spoke about how a five member  
21 board could reduce the length of meetings. He stated that a five member board allows two members to speak  
22 without violating the RSA, providing another vehicle for the Select Board to express opinions and positions  
23 which could result in shorter meeting. He believes that it is worth a try.

24  
25 Derek Narducci stated he is currently undecided and wanted to hear various opinions.

26  
27 c. Close Public Comment

28 Harry Seidel thanked everyone for their input. Harry Seidel closed the public hearing.

29  
30 d. Close Public Hearing

31 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote**  
32 **Minton YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

33 **III. Adjournment**

34 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to adjourn the Select Board meeting.**  
35 **Roll Call Vote Minton YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

36  
37 The meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM

38  
39 Respectfully submitted on 2/26/25 at 10:45 AM by Tracy Doherty  
40 Edited by Darcie Buskey, Assistant Clerk