TOWN OF WARNER

PO Box 265
Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0265
Telephone: (603) 456-2298 Fax: (603) 456-2297
Warnernh.gov selectboard@warnernh.gov

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

Select Board Public Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2025 6:00 PM

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

Chairman Harry Seidel called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Select Board present: Chairman Harry Seidel and Vice Chair Alfred Hanson. Mike J. Smith was absent. Audience attendance: Russ Smith, Martha Mical, Elizabeth Labbe, Judy Newman-Rogers, Rachel Parsons, Ralph Parsons, Michael Simons, Michael Brown, Jan Myskowski, Dana Myskowski, Phil Stockwell, Hastings Rigolet, Ted Young, Sara McNeil and Nancy Ladd.

II. Select Board Business:

a. **Veteran Hall Sign**

Hastings Rigolet explained that he was contacted by the National Commander of the Purple Heart asking him to initiate this in Warner. He stated that there is no cost to the Town to install 3 signs that acknowledges that Warner is a Purple Heart community. He advised the Select Board that the signs will be installed by the Department of Transportation in the proximity of the town line.

Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the Purple Heart signs as proposed. Roll Call Vote: Hanson YES Seidel YES

Discussion on the motion: Mr. Ted Young explained that he is a 52 year member of the Warner American Legion. Mr. Young spoke about the declining number of members. He explained that the Legion promotes the welfare of veterans and their families. Harry Seidel stated that Warner is very proud of the Legion and the veterans of Warner. The Select Board signed the necessary paperwork.

b. **Review Welfare Job Description**

Harry Seidel explained that the temporary director, Carol Conforti-Adams, is working with the Town to fulfill the welfare needs of the town. He explained that the job description for the position needs to be updated. Elizabeth Labbe explained that the position has been opened to current employees. She explained that Carol Conforti Adams has been teaching her how to network to fulfill an applicant's needs and monitor expectations. She stated that weekly meetings are held with an applicant. Elizabeth Labbe advised the Select Board that candidates for the position should possess human services experience and must be strong. She stated that the hours for the position will not exceed 10 hours per week. Elizabeth Labbe stated that there is special training coming up in early November. Elizabeth Labbe stated that she and Carol Conforti-Adams believe that the Welfare Department needs to be an independent department and not added to someone's current position to make them a full time employee.

Harry Seidel asked if the previous arrangement where the welfare operations were conducted at the Warner Community Center was adequate. Elizabeth Labbe stated that it worked but it is not an appropriate location because it is not ADA accessible. She explained that there should be an independent phone for Welfare matters. Alfred Hanson spoke about opening the position up to the public sooner rather than later. Elizabeth Labbe explained that the job title should be changed to Human Services Director. She stated that the job description has not been finalized and approved. Harry Seidel stated that the existing job description will be revised to be stronger and geared more towards the human services. He explained that Carol Conforti-

Adams and Elizabeth Labbe will work on the revision of the job description and present it to the Select Board on October 28, 2025. Elizabeth Labbe explained that the qualifications and previous experience requirements in the job description need to be revised. She stated that the hours worked should be modified to no more than 10 hours/week at $25.00/hour. She informed the Select Board that state law requires municipalities to fulfill RSA 165 and there cannot be budget constraints. She stated that an applicant who has the ability and knowledge to network for services will save the Town money. The Select Board agreed to allow Carol Conforti-Adams and Elizabeth Labbe a few weeks to revise the job description.

The order of business was adjusted to discuss the library funding next.

d. **Library Funding**

Harry Seidel explained that Warner is in a difficult position because the reval was just done and town expenses (fuel, insurance and ambulance services) have increased. He stated that everyone is concerned about the tax rate. He stated that the Town has a contractual obligation to the library and the higher Town reassessment increased the Town's payment to the library by approximately $244,000. Harry Seidel stated that the Town is required to pay the library $463,000. Harry Seidel stated that he has reviewed the contract and the history relating to the funding formula. He does not believe the Town can change the payment due. Alfred Hanson stated he has spoken to the library and there have been many years that the library did not receive very much from the town. He did acknowledge that the increase is significant and it will not change for the next five years. Alfred Hanson explained that when the Town's value decreases so will the library's funding. He stated that the library has been delaying improvements because they did not have the funding. He expressed the concern that if the library is not able to make improvements it will cost the town even more.

Jan Myskowski explained that the calculation for the library funding is a fixed amount for five years to coincide with the Town's valuation cycle. Alfred Hanson stated that to him it is important to make other adjustments to meet the Town's obligations. He stated that he is not in favor of changing the library funding. Dana Myskowski addressed the assumption that the library will be flush this year. She informed the Select Board that the library has been running at a $20,000 deficit for the past three years. She stated that the library has deferred maintenance. She explained that the quote for the deferred maintenance is up to three quarters of million dollars. Dana Myskowski explained that for the next 2-3 years they will use every penny of the funding to catch up on 30 years of deferred maintenance. She stated that the Library Trustees have discussed fund raising for capital improvements. She spoke about the community support for the library advising the Select Board that an anonymous donor gave $15,000 to repair the library roof.

Michael Brown library treasurer advised the Select Board that they have been worried for a long time about how they would sustain the library. He acknowledged the worry that residents have. Harry Seidel acknowledged the library has expenses as does the Town. Michael Brown explained that the library has been in a deficit for many years and has deferred improvements. He explained that the money will be used to make the deferred improvements. Michael Brown stressed that the town values will go down and that will negatively impact the library. He stressed that the trustees are tax payers as well. He stated that the Trustees are obligated to uphold the trust that has been in place for 135 years. Nancy Ladd spoke about the services the library offers to ease financial burdens on Warner residents (reduced ticket prices for museums, aquariums and the Mount Washington railroad). She stressed that the library offers services that helps resident save money. Nancy Ladd stated that library is used by the town for meetings and the library newsletter publishes notices and town announcements. Dana Myskowski reminded the Select Board that the library is also used as a heating and cooling shelter for residents. Jan Myskowski spoke about the statutory requirement to adequately maintain the library and based on the amount of deferred maintenance that has not

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happened. Harry Seidel explained that he is supportive of the library, however the budget process will be very difficult.

c. **Ambulance Contract and Funding Review**

Harry Seidel stated that he has a few issues after reviewing the proposed ambulance contract. He stated that Warner budgeted based on the current contract. Alfred Hanson cautioned about discussing this since negotiations are coming up. He reiterated that Hopkinton needs to explain to Webster and Warner how this increase occurred. Harry Seidel stated the net increase is $335,165 and in 2025 the actual ambulance billing was $13,660. He stated the previous year the Town of Hopkinton had an unspent budget of $84,000. He explained that Hopkinton has been absorbing the shortfall. Alfred Hanson stated that he would like clarification on the cost of providing this service. Harry Seidel questioned how some figures have not changed for years. Harry Seidel questions if mutual aid responses are counted in the calculation of Warner's calls for service. Alfred Hanson reiterated that Warner receives a cost savings by utilizing this service but he would like clarification on the significant increase this year. Martha Mical asked if the Select Board has spoken to the Town Administrator in Hopkinton. Harry Seidel explained that the Hopkinton Town Administrator and Chair Person came and spoke to Clyde Carson and himself. Harry Seidel explained that he is hard pressed to understand the significant increase. Elizabeth Labbe recapped the staffing of the ambulance crew indicating that it has not changed. Harry Seidel stated that he would like to understand the increase in wages. Alfred Hanson asked if payment from insurance companies has decreased. Harry Seidel confirmed that it has decreased. The Select Board agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.

e. **Procedure and Method of Notifying Abutters for Sale of Town Owned Property**

Harry Seidel explained that AnnMarie Timmons wrote to the Select Board regarding notification to abutters of a sale of town owned property. She suggests establishing a procedure to notify abutters of an impending sale of town owned / tax deeded property. The Select Board agreed to look into this in time for town meeting in March. Martha Mical explained there are specific rules regarding the sale of tax deeded properties and numerous notice requirements. The Select Board agreed to revisit this discussion on October 21, 2025 and review language for a policy on the final step of how to notice abutters.

f. **Review Kearsarge St Ext/ Depot St Drainage Status**

Harry Seidel read a status update from Tim Allen Director of Public Works regarding the Kearsarge Street Ext/Depot Street drainage improvement project. Breakdown of costs $125,000 spent to date, estimating curbing $12,000-$15,000, paving is estimated at $75,000, estimated total project to date is $215,000.

III. Public Comment

-Russ Smith stated that he will hold off with his comments until the next meeting.

-Rachel Parsons spoke in support of the library. She acknowledged the fear of residents but the library provides free service to the town.

-Elizabeth Labbe advised the Select Board that the business cards have been ordered and will be here soon. -

- Elizabeth Labbe stated that there is a Department Head meeting scheduled for next Wednesday at 9:00 AM. Alfred Hanson will attend the Department Head meeting. Judy Newman-Rogers stated that if two Selectmen attend that would open the Department Head meeting as a public meeting. Elizabeth Labbe stressed that Department Head meetings are geared towards reconnecting and supporting staff. Alfred Hanson stressed that he wants to hear from Department Heads and address any concerns they have.

-Martha Mical requested that the new police officer be introduced to the town. Alfred Hanson explained that the official hire is contingent on the candidate passing necessary tests.

-Rachel Parsons asked if there is anything in the Select Board rules that addresses the acceptable number of consecutive meetings a Select Person may miss. Harry Seidel stated that to the best of his knowledge there is.

IV. Consent Agenda:

None

V. Manifest: October 7, 2025

Motion for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifest: Accounts Payable check numbers 11825 through 11826 dated 10/2/2025, in the amount of $36,855.95 for the October 7th quarterly payroll deposits. Quarterly payroll check numbers 4075 through 4101, and direct deposit check numbers E02728 through E02733 dated 10/7/2025 for a net payroll of $29,555.05.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to accept the manifest as read. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES

VI. Minutes: September 23, 2025

Page 4 line 47 insert YES after Seidel

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to accept the September 23, 2025 Select Board meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES

VII. Select Board Other Business

-Alfred Hanson explained that he would like to make a change to the order of business on the agenda. He would like to hear any department heads as the second item on the agenda. He stated that Department Heads work all day and should be heard from early in the meeting. The Select Board agreed to insert Department Head Discussion as the second item on the agenda. Russ Smith stated that when he served on the Select Board in Newbury the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Director of DPW attended Select Board meetings. Alfred Hanson suggested introducing the idea to the Department Heads as a way to increase communication between the Select Board and Department Heads. Elizabeth Labbe stated that it will be discussed at the Department Head meeting. The Select Board agreed to add Department Head discussions as the first item under Select Board business.

-Harry Seidel would like to consider a tree cutting policy for the Town. Alfred Hanson cautioned the language of the policy.

-Harry Seidel stated that the building inspector has raised an issue that should be addressed. He explained that when he signs a building permit he feels that he has made a judgement and the Select Board should not be required to sign it because he is the licensed professional. Elizabeth Labbe explained that the building inspector has been learning the town's procedures and is make adjustments to give Warner a stronger department. Alfred Hanson asked Russ Smith how it is done in Newbury. Russ Smith explained that the Select Board in Newbury does not sign the building permits they leave that to the qualified professional. Judy Newman-Rogers explained that there is not a written procedure for who is required to sign the building permits. She stated that it has always been the practice.

-Harry Seidel stated that the Select Board needs to make a decision on the Burrington Eagle Estates matter. Nate Burrington informed the Select Board that he is having an issue with access to the entrance of his building, he needs the entrance access to remain open.

VIII. Non-Public Session if needed (RSA 91-A:3 II (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m))

None

IX. Adjournment

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM

Respectfully submitted on 10/9/25 by Tracy Doherty

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