



TOWN OF WARNER

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

Select Board Public Meeting Minutes December 30, 2025 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 Members Present: Harry Seidel Chair	Alfred Hanson V-Chair					
Present on Zoom: Michael Smith (Heard from on zoom at 6:13 pm)						
Absent:						
Others Present: Judy Newman-Rogers Select Board Admin Asst	Clyde Carson Finance Director					
Ed Mical	Jody Sloane	Barbara Marty	David Carle	Martha Mical	Tim Blagden	Bob Bower
Micah Thompson	Nancy Martin	Russ Smith	Charlie Albano	Nick Holmes	Alice Chamberlain	Nick Zanchi
Jacqueline Germain	Benjamin Tereru	Arlon Chaffee	Kathy Carson	Steve Hall		
On Zoom: Linda Leclair	iPad	Debra Mahar	Bob	Kathy	Steve	Rebecca
LK	Mikey B	Cogswell	Emmerson Lennon			

II. Select Board Business

1. Department Heads:

a. Ed Mical: Review Non-operating street light Eversource charges

Ed Mical advised the Select Board that Eversource has invoiced the Town for 72 street lights. He explained that 15 street lights are supposed to shut off at midnight. He stated that he has reached out to a community service representative to discuss the non-operating lights but he is waiting for the representative to get back to him. Ed Mical explained that he needs additional time to confirm which lights are non-operating. He will report back to the Select Board.

b. Ed Mical Director of Emergency Management;

Proposed Warrant Article for Emergency Operating Center (EOC) Revolving Fund.

Ed Mical explained that the funds would support Emergency Operating Center activities. He informed the Select Board that any reimbursement funds received if a disaster is declared would go back into the fund so that the taxpayers would not be burdened. The warrant article is seeking to appropriate \$6,500 from the unassigned fund balance. Harry Seidel stated that he supports this. Alfred Hanson clarified that the funds requested are additional to the Emergency Management budget. Ed Mical confirmed. Ed Mical stated that he is looking for the support of the Select Board to move forward with this as a warrant article. Alfred Hanson stated that he is not ready to vote for this. Mike Smith (6:13 pm) stated that he is in support of this. The Select Board agreed to revisit the request in the future.

Harry Seidel adjusted the order of business moving up 10. Encumber Funds in the amount of \$121,000 for partial payment of the 2026 \$241,000 Ambulance Payment.

c. Encumber Funds of \$121,000 for partial payment of the 2026 Ambulance Payment.

Harry Seidel asked Clyde Carson, Finance Director to join the discussion. Harry Seidel explained that Warner is in alliance with the Towns of Hopkinton and Webster for ambulance services. Harry Seidel

1 explained that Hopkinton recently notified Warner that the cost for 2025 increased to \$241,000 which was
2 much more than the \$89,000 cost for 2025 that Hopkinton had originally given Warner. He stressed that this
3 was a shock. Harry Seidel explained that that was an additional \$152,000. Harry Seidel explained that at the
4 end of the year any unspent funds could be encumbered for a partial payment of the 2026 ambulance
5 contract.

6
7 Harry Seidel stated that Warner had requested an estimate from Hopkinton for 2026. He stated that the
8 estimate increased to \$266,000. Clyde Carson explained that historically there is an end of year operating
9 budget surplus and this year two police positions and a highway department positions were not filled that
10 created a surplus. Clyde Carson explained that the State allows municipalities to encumber those funds to
11 renew a contract for the next year.

12
13 Harry Seidel explained that Hopkinton is disappointed that Warner is not paying more for 2025 but for 2026
14 they are hoping that Warner will be a full partner. H noted that the town of Webster is in the same difficult
15 position that Warner is in. He explained that a new contract with Hopkinton, Warner and Webster still needs
16 to be executed for future years. Alfred Hanson expressed his frustration with the increase from \$241,000 to
17 \$266,000. Harry Seidel explained that the \$241,000 is for 2025 and \$266,000 is for 2026. Harry Seidel
18 explained that Warner does not have other options for ambulance service and Jon France Warner Fire Chief
19 feels that the estimates are reasonable. He believes there is still room to negotiate for 2026. Clyde Carson
20 explained that Hopkinton provides an estimate at the beginning of the year and the contract requires the town
21 of Hopkinton to review Warner's cost for the second half of the year.

22
23 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to encumber \$121,000 for partial payment of
24 the 2026 Ambulance Payment.**

25 **Roll Call Vote: Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

26
27 **2. Nancy Martin Conservation Chair; New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA),
28 downhill mountain bike trail in Rollins State Park**

29 Nancy Martin spoke regarding a petition circulating regarding a proposed project on Kearsarge Mountain.
30 She explained that the project is not a state project and they will not provide emergency efforts that this
31 project may require. Harry Seidel stated that is a concern of his relating to the strain that this will have on
32 Warner's EMT's. Nancy Martin read a letter (attached) on behalf of the Conservation Commission relating
33 to their concerns that the downhill mountain bike trail will have. Harry Seidel asked if a plan has been
34 drafted regarding this project. Nancy Martin stated that there was an application submitted by the NEMBA
35 to the State of New Hampshire. She explained that The Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) has been
36 anticipating an overview of this plan for 18 months. Nancy Martin explained that the State received a
37 presentation but the WCC was not included. Nancy Martin stated that this is State owned property and the
38 Town will not be permitted to speak at future meetings. She stated that the State will make the final
39 decision. Alfred Hanson asked how the Town can follow the progression of this proposal. Nancy Martin
40 advised that she had been told by the State representative that the Town can send letters. She asserted that
41 people from Warner can also attend the State meetings relative to this proposal. She stated that another thing
42 the Town can do is to hold a vote at Town Meeting and determine what the townspeople feel about this
43 proposed project (circulating petition to be submitted as a warrant article). Mike Smith asked if the proposed
44 trail is all on State land. Nancy Martin confirmed. Harry Seidel explained that he has mixed feelings on this,
45 specifically the negative impacts on the town. He did acknowledge the importance of outdoor recreation.
46 Harry Seidel is concerned about the impact of traffic and the increased calls for emergency services. The
47 Select Board agreed to think about the suggestion of a warrant article for town meeting.

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1 **3. Micah Thompson, Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Volunteer Interest**

2 Harry Seidel explained that Micah Thompson, an alternate on the Planning Board, has submitted a letter of
3 interest in serving the Town by joining the EDAC. He read the letter from Micah Thompson. Charlie
4 Albano stated that he forward information to Micah Thompson.

5
6 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to appoint Micah Thompson of 27 West Main**
7 **Street to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.**

8 **Roll Call Vote: Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

9
10 **4. Possible Verizon Communication Tower at Transfer Station**

11 Harry Seidel explained that this is a continuation of previous discussions held on December 9th and 15th. He
12 stated that he has had discussions with Police Chief Bill Chandler to try to discover what is needed. He
13 explained that Verizon through a second party would like to install a cell tower at the transfer station. Harry
14 Seidel stressed that it would benefit the Police, Fire and Highway Department. He stated that it would also
15 serve the area with better cell service coverage. Harry Seidel stated that Verizon would like a memorandum
16 of understanding with the Town before they begin to investigate the site. Harry Seidel spoke about the
17 importance of a repeater device to better serve the Police, Fire and Highway Department. He stated that they
18 are still working to find out the cost of the repeater. He is working with Bill Chandler and Jon France to
19 identify what is needed.

20
21 **5. David Carle Rules of Procedure, Clarification from 12/9/25 Meeting**

22 Harry Seidel noted that the Select Board will review amendments 7, 8, and 9 of the proposed amendments.
23 He asked David Carle to join the discussion. David Carle informed the Select Board that a suggestion that
24 the Select Board received was not a recommendation from the group that worked on the rules of procedures.
25 He explained that the group tried to look at issues the Select Board has faced that had gone from debate to
26 conflict. He urged the Select Board to consider the suggestion separate from the amendments submitted.
27 David Carle clarified that the proposed amendment (# 2) regarding the submission of documents is to
28 provide consistency.

29
30 Town Administrator Proposed Amendment 7: David Carle explained that proposed amendments are intended
31 to layout what the public and Select Board expect from a Town Administrator and clean up redundant
32 language. David Carle stressed the importance of the language, *“Nothing in this section shall be construed*
33 *as adopting the Town Manager form of government under RSA 37.”*

34
35 Requests of Legal Inquiries or Opinions from Town Counsel Proposed Amendment 8: David Carle stated
36 that this has been one of the most contentious issues in Select Board meetings. He explained that there needs
37 to be coordination between the Board, the Town Administrator and everyone else. David Carle stressed the
38 importance of the language, *“Nothing in this section shall preclude Town Counsel from providing urgent*
39 *legal guidance to prevent immediate harm or liability, provided notice to the Town Administrator follows as*
40 *soon as practicable.”* David Carle reiterated that if the Chair needs an urgent legal opinion the proposed
41 amendment provides an avenue for that. He explained that for everyday business there needs to be
42 communication between the Select Board, Town Administrator and Town Committees. Harry Seidel asked
43 what authority can be used in the event that the Town Administrator position is vacant. David Carle
44 explained that he believes that it would be up to the Select Board to put together a temporary action plan.

45
46 Committees/Liaisons Proposed Amendment 9: David Carle explained the difference between committees
47 with a Big C and committees with a little c. He stated that committees with a Big C are governed by state law
48 and the little c committees such as the EDAC or Energy Committee are formed by the Select Board and
49 members are appointed and it can be dissolved by the Select Board. He stated that the committees governed
50 by state law are not included in the proposed amendment.

1 Alfred Hanson asked for the names of the people in the group who worked on the amendments. David Carle
2 stated that he does not know everyone's name. He explained that initially it began with a group of 15
3 residents who were concerned about how the Select Board meetings were going. David Carle will get the
4 names of those who participated.

5

6 **6. Jody Sloane Request to host community Sledding Event at Chandler Reservation**

7 Jody Sloane explained that they have held two previous similar events in past years. Harry Seidel stated this
8 sounds like a fun event. He noted that the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) expressed concern regarding
9 insurance and written contract requirements.

10 Jody Sloane stated that in the past the assumption was that town owned property could be used at one's own
11 risk. She explained that there will not be alcohol permitted and they will not be charging admission fees.
12 Alfred Hanson pointed out that this is not an organization sponsoring the event. He stated that it is private
13 citizens utilizing the town owned property. Mike Smith stated this is a wonderful event for residents.

14

15 **7. James Sherman, Deputy Tax Collector resignation**

16 Harry Seidel explained that James Sherman has submitted a resignation as Deputy Tax Collector.

17 **Mike Smith made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to accept James Sherman's resignation as**
18 **Deputy Tax Collector.**

19 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

20

21 *Discussion on the motion:* Harry Seidel expressed his gratitude to James Sherman for his dedication. Mike
22 Smith will write a letter thanking James Sherman for his service.

23

24 **III. Public Comment**

25 Nick Holmes 131 North Main Street Concord NH representing NEMBA offered information to clear up
26 misinformation regarding the mountain bike trail. He clarified that the informal presentation to the State was
27 only an initial step and no public hearings have been held. He stressed that the only communication has been
28 the submission of a written application not a detailed presentation. Nick Holmes explained that they are
29 proposing a family friendly intermediate trail. He explained that the trail will be designed to be safely used
30 by both hikers and bikers. He stated that it will be done in manner to reduce the risk of confrontation
31 between the two users as they have done on other trail networks. Nick Holmes explained that the proposed
32 trail has been designed with great care by a professional out of Vermont who has taken great care to follow
33 the toll road generally to minimize impact on the wild portions of the mountain. The design of the bike trail
34 has used the grade so that people are not reaching excessive speeds. Harry Seidel asked if the Town can see
35 the preliminary plan. Nick Holmes explained that the preliminary plan is available for public review. He
36 stressed that NEMBA will work closely with the State to address any concerns they have. He asserted that
37 they focus on building sustainable trails. Nick Holmes reiterated that this is in the early stages and they are
38 awaiting the response from the State.

39

40 Alice Chamberlain referenced the project description that states the purpose of this project is to offer
41 additional passive recreational use for Rollins Park by creating a multi-use biking trail. She explained that
42 the State declined to commit to only one trail.

43

44 David Carle urged the Select Board to contact state officials stressing the need for Warner to be involved in
45 this decision as it will impact Warner's emergency services, trash removal and other town resources.

46

47 Bob Bower stated that in the meetings he has attended there has been a shifting pattern going on. He
48 explained that the trail has been described as family friendly and other descriptions call the trail the steepest
49 vertical drop in New England. Bob Bower stated there has not been any effort to notify the state concerning
50 the applicant's emergency program. He stated that the Select Board has every right / obligation to contact the

1 State regarding the potential impact on Warner's emergency services. He suggested the Select Board pursue a
2 pause on the project until such time as an emergency plan is offered. Bob Bower stated that an increase in
3 use of the parking lot is going to spill over to other roads that are maintained by Warner. He spoke about the
4 increase in traffic.

5
6 Charlie Albano spoke about a past attempt to develop an area above the toll booth. He explained that the
7 project was challenged because there were concerns regarding safety and for the environment. Charlie
8 Albano stated that he is concerned about the liability to the town.

9
10 Tim Blagden explained that he has walked the proposed trail three times and disputed the steepness of the
11 proposed trail. He stressed that any safety concerns will be addressed but it is too early in the process.

12
13 Bob Bower questioned if NEMBA will hold events in the future that would impact the Town. Nick Holmes
14 clarified that NEMBA would not hold events at the proposed site.

15
16 Harry Seidel called a brief recess at 7:36 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 7:45 PM.

17
18 **IV. Consent Agenda:** December 30, 2025

19 Motion by the Warner Select board to approve the following or previously signed:

20 1. A request to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for \$81,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital
21 Reserve fund to pay invoices from John Deere, representing the first lease payment on the new grader and
22 loader/backhoe.

23 2. A refund request by the Tax Collector of an overpayment of taxes due to duplicate payments.

24 Refund total amount is \$3,122.74

25 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to approve the Consent Agenda for December**
26 **30, 2025 as read.**

27 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

28
29 **V. Manifest:** December 30, 2025

30 Motion for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifest:

31 -Accounts payable check numbers 12066 through 12115 dated December 12, 2025 in the amount of
32 \$94,180.62

33 -Account6s payable check numbers 12116 through 12120 dated December 19, 2025 in the amount of
34 \$375,787.94

35 - Accounts payable check numbers 12121 through 12124 dated December 22, 2025 in the amount of
36 \$57,230.27 for the December 4, 2025 bi-weekly payroll deposits.

37 -Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4139 through 4142 and direct deposit check numbers E02892
38 E02922 dated December 24, 2025 for a net payroll of \$42,846.09

39 Motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and order the Treasurer to sign the following manifests:

40 - Accounts payable check numbers 12125 through 12145 dated December 30, 2025 in the amount of
41 \$751,664.93 which includes a \$625,000 payment to the Kearsarge Regional School District for the
42 December allotment.

43 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to approve the manifest motions for**
44 **December 30, 2025 as read.**

45 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

46
47 **VI. Minutes:** November 4, 2025, November 18, 2025, December 4, 2025, December 9, 2025 and
48 December 15, 2025

49

1 **November 4, 2025**

2 Page 1 line 21 strike plan insert plans

3 Page 2 line 13 strike offers inserted suggested

4 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the November 4, 2025 Select**
5 **Board meeting minutes as amended.**

6 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

7 **November 18, 2025**

8 Page 3 line 2 strike to insert will

9 Page 4 line 27 strike 35 insert 25

10 Page 5 line 5 strike in insert an

11 Page 5 line 35 strike if insert if it is

12 Page 5 line 23 strike selected insert will need to be invited

13 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the November 18, 2025 Select**
14 **Board meeting minutes as amended.**

15 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

16 **December 4, 2025 Work Session**

17 Page 1 line 23 strike is the final approval insert gives the final approval

18 Page 2 line 8 strike that

19 Page 2 line 8 strike add

20 Page 2 line 19 revise to read as: *if it is paid leave the employee will accrue leave and if it is unpaid leave employees will not accrue time.*

21 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the December 4, 2025 Select**
22 **Board work session minutes as amended.**

23 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith ABSTAIN**

24 **December 9, 2025 and December 15, 2025 minutes tabled.**

25 **VII. Select Board Other Business**

26 The Select Board agreed to meet on January 6, 2026.

27 **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

28 **IX. Adjournment**

29 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Roll Call**
30 **Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES**

31 The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

32 Respectfully submitted on January 6, 2026 by Tracy Doherty

33 Edits, Judith Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst

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