



TOWN OF WARNER

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Select Board: Alfred Hanson, Chairman
Rick Bixby, Vice Chair
Michael J. Smith

Select Board Public Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026 5:30 PM

I. 5:30 PM Open the Public Meeting

II. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Select Board present:

X	Alfred	Hanson	Chair	
X	Richard	Bixby	VC	
X	Michael	Smith		

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public present:

	In Person:					Zoom:
1	Rachel	Parsons	11	John	Leavitt	1 Natalie Wells
2	J	Noble	12	Faith	Minton	2 Mickey B
3	N	Noble	13	David	Carle	3 MH
4	Amelia	Gardner	14	Sam	Carr	4 Steve
5	Rebecca	Courser	15	Neil	Nevins	5 Ray Carbone
6	Joanne	Hinnendael	16	Christine	Frost	6 lizaliness@aol.com
7	Elizabeth	Labbe	17	Karen	Raymond	7 Jordan
8	Barb	Marty	18	Carson	Kathy	8 Chr Walla
9	Martha	Mical	19	Judith	Newman Rogers	9 Ipad
10	Ginger	Marsh	20	Sara	McNeil	

III. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

Motion: Hanson

Second: Bixby

Roll Call Vote: Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES

No further video recording of meeting. Audio transcription of meeting was used to compile the draft meeting minutes. Audio transcription did not specify speaker's names.

The Board returned to the meeting room at 5:52 pm. Alfred Hanson stated that the order of business will be adjusted to allow the public to attend or view the meeting at the regular 6:00 pm start time.

VIII. Minutes March 3, 2026, and March 31, 2026

1 Rick Bixby will not be voting on March 3, 2026 minutes due to the meeting taking place prior to Rick Bixby
2 being elected to the Select Board.

3
4 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to approve the minutes from the March 3,
5 2026 meeting. Roll Call Smith YES Hanson YES**

6
7 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the minutes from the March 31,
8 2026 Select Board meeting. Roll Call Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAIN**

9
10 **VI. Consent Agenda** April 14, 2026

11 Motion by the Warner Select Board to approve the following or previously signed: Payroll Change Form,
12 hourly rate change to \$18.92 for Kathryn Toomey, change from Fire Fighter Rescue to Fire Fighter Rescue
13 AEMT due to new certification.

14
15 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote
16 Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

17
18 **VII. Manifest** April 14, 2026

19 Motion for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifests: *Accounts Payable check
20 numbers 12469 through 12470 dated 4/7/2026, in the amount of \$34,458.65 for the April 7th quarterly
21 payroll deposits. • Quarterly payroll check numbers 4207 through 4232, and direct deposit check numbers
22 E03168 through E03174 dated 4/7/2026 for a net payroll of \$27,302.55. • Accounts Payable check numbers
23 12471 through 12509 dated 4/8/2026, in the amount of \$62,762.57.

24
25 Motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and order the Treasurer to sign the following manifests: •
26 Accounts Payable check numbers 12510 through 12513 dated 4/14/2026, in the amount of \$59,060.34 for the
27 April 16th bi-weekly payroll deposits. • Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4233 through 4235, and direct
28 deposit check numbers E03175 through E03203 dated 4/16/2026 for a net payroll of \$45,236.79.

29
30 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the manifests as read. Roll Call Vote
31 Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith Abstain**

32
33 Alfred Hanson stated that the Budget Committee submitted their meeting schedule for the Select Board to
34 review.

35
36 **6:00 pm** Alfred Hanson announced that a vote was taken on the return of Kathy Frenette and the majority of
37 the Select Board voted not to reinstate Kathy Frenette as Town Administrator.

38 **IV. Select Board Business:**

39 **a. Update on the Highway Garage**

40 Alfred Hanson read a report from Herm Blanchette regarding the restoration of the highway garage and
41 equipment. The Department is shifting from their winter duties to a summer routine. Clyde Carson, Finance
42 Director, explained that a 75/25 grant, pending governance and Legislative Council approval, has been
43 secured through the efforts of the Highway Department and Ed Michal, in the amount of \$139,000 for a
44 culvert over Barkley Brook scheduled for July/August 2027.

1 **b. Department Heads:**

2 Ed Mical Emergency Management advised the Select Board that he received approval to update the Warner
3 Emergency Operation Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan. He explained that he will be holding
4 meetings and return this summer for Select Board approval for the \$7,000 grants included in the Emergency
5 Management budget.

6
7 **c. Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments**

8 **Zoning Board of Adjustment, 1 Vacant Position**

9 **Alternate Zoning Board Member, Term 2026-2029**

10 Sam Carr present for reappointment. Sam Carr stated he is a lifelong resident, enjoys the challenge of
11 balancing the rights of property owners with Town ordinances and he is happy to serve.

12
13 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to reappoint Sam Carr as an Alternate Zoning**
14 **Board Member, for a 3-year term 2026 through April 1, 2029. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES**
15 **Hanson YES**

16
17 **Conservation Commission, 2 Vacant Positions**

18 **Full Member, Term 2026-2029**

19 Nancy Martin not present for reappointment. Alfred Hanson asked the other members if they wanted to
20 appoint volunteers if they were not present. Mike Smith stated that he did not know why Board members
21 would not if they know the person.

22
23 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve members for Conservation,**
24 **Planning Board and Parks and Recreation for reappointment even though they are not present at this**
25 **meeting. Roll Call Vote: Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

26
27 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to reappoint Nancy Martin as a full member of**
28 **the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term 2026 through April 1, 2029. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES**
29 **Smith YES Hanson YES**

30
31 **Planning Board, 2 Vacant Positions**

32 **Alternate Planning Board Member, Term 2026-2029, Micah Thompson**

33
34 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to reappoint Micah Thompson as an alternate**
35 **member of the Warner Planning Board for a 3-year term 2026 through April 1, 2029. Roll Call Vote**
36 **Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

37
38 **Parks & Recreation**

39 **Full Member, Term 2026-2029, Tim Blagden**

40 **Full Member, Term 2026-2029, Sandra “Buzz” Whalen**

41
42 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to reappoint Tim Blagden as a full member of**
43 **the Warner Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3 year term 2026 through April 1, 2029. Roll Call**
44 **Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

1 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to reappoint a Sandra “Buzz” Whalen as a full**
2 **member of the Warner Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term 2026 through April 1, 2029.**
3 **Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

4
5 **d. Motion on Meeting Attendance Amendment to Rules of Procedure**
6

7 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to adopt the proposed Meeting Attendance**
8 **Amendment to Rules of Procedure. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

9
10 **e. Delegation of Deposit Function Authority**

11 Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to accept the Delegation of Deposit Function
12 Authority. No vote taken.
13

14 *Discussion on the motion:* Mike Smith stated that he has not had enough time to go through this and
15 investigate it. Ginger Marsh clarified that pursuant to RSA 41:29 the town treasurer can designate the people
16 who have the authority to take a deposit to the bank. She explained that this step is to designate the town
17 positions who are authorized to make deposits; Town Administrator, Finance Director, Town Clerk, Deputy
18 Town Clerk, Tax Collector and the Deputy Tax Collector. Ginger Marsh questioned if the Select Board
19 Administrative Assistant position should be added to the list. Judy Newman-Rogers stated that she would
20 prefer not to be added to the list because she does not make deposits. Judy Newman-Rogers said she is
21 responsible for writing up the deposits. The Select Board would like a few additional days to revise this.
22

23 **f. Cell Tower Update**

24 Ed Mical informed the Select Board that if Warner is adding a repeater for the Town on a proposed Transfer
25 Station Tower the FCC license coordinator has indicated that the license will need to be re-done and any
26 radios that utilize the sound frequency potentially will need to be reprogrammed. The discussion continued
27 focusing on the outstanding questions that the Select Board has (pricing, height of tower, scope and
28 location). Ed Mical assured the Select Board that he will continue digging for information and he will advise
29 the Select Board. Judy Newman-Rogers reported that Police Chief William Chandler had forwarded
30 information regarding his contact with the Merrimack County Dispatch Supervisor who said that specs for
31 the tower would be helpful in providing a cost for a repeater. Alfred Hanson informed the Select Board that
32 the representative plans to attend the April 28, 2026 meeting to hear the Select Board’s concerns and possibly
33 provide some answers.
34

35 **IV. Select Board Other Business**

36 Alfred Hanson advised the Select Board that it has been brought to his attention that the Town’s minute taker
37 is requesting to change her status from a 1099 to a W2. Alfred Hanson stated that he will forward the
38 information to the Select Board for the April 28, 2026 meeting.
39

40 The Select Board discussed the vacant Land Use Secretary position. Alfred Hanson stated that he would like
41 the Board to allow him to meet with the Chairs of the Planning Board and ZBA to discuss their needs. Alfred
42 Hanson explained that this is an area of town business that he has not been involved with and he would like
43 to use this as an educational opportunity. The Select Board agreed.
44

45 The Select Board discussed the on-going issue with the Ambulance Service and related cost increase.
46 Hopkinton contacted Warner last week to start discussions between the Towns who use their service, Warner,
47 Webster and Hopkinton. Clyde Carson Finance Director agreed to attend the first meeting. Clyde Carson

1 explained that Webster will have an account administrator and a Selectperson attending the meetings. The
2 Select Board agreed to find a volunteer who is interested in attending the meetings to represent Warner.

3
4 **V. Public Comment**

5 Martha Mical suggested the Select Board ask the Fire Chief to be on the Ambulance Committee.

6
7 Barb Marty questioned if it is known how much Primex will cover of the fire damage at the Highway garage.
8 Clyde Carson stated that the Town is covered 100%.

9
10 Joanne Hinnendael asked about a house that appears to be collapsing on Laing Bridge Lane. It was discussed
11 that it is tax deeded property and the town has not owned it for the required three years before it can be sold.
12 The property has been posted. The Select Board discussed another property near Melvin Mills. Joanne stated
13 that she believes a home is going to be torn down. She inquired if the home has historical value. Elizabeth
14 Labbe explained that the property in question is the red Candy House and confirmed that the house will be
15 demolished. She confirmed that there is historical value, but the owner cannot keep two residences. She
16 stated that Warner does not have a demolition ordinance.

17
18 Sarah McNeil read from a letter signed by many Warner residents. She stated that copies of the letter are
19 available. She spoke about concerns relating to the continued employment of Kathy Frenette. She stated
20 that many citizens have lost confidence in her. She outlined examples that she believes demonstrate that
21 Kathy Frenette ignored town policies. Sarah McNeil stated that Kathy Frenette does not have the trust and
22 confidence of the townspeople and staff to perform the duties of the Town Administrator fairly and
23 professionally and it would not be in Warner's best interest to continue to employ Kathy Frenette.

24
25 Town Treasurer Ginger Marsh asked if quotes have been received for the outsourcing of the town's payroll
26 approved at Town Meeting to take effect in the third quarter of the year. Alfred Hanson stated that they are
27 working on it.

28
29 John Leavitt stated that he cannot believe the Select Board allowed Sarah McNeil's dissertation to happen.
30 He stated that Ms. Frenette is not here to defend herself because she is on leave pending an investigation that
31 was done in February. John Leavitt stated that "He" (Alfred Hanson) decided not to reinstate Ms. Frenette.
32 John Leavitt explained that allowing disparaging remarks about another person during a meeting goes
33 against the rules of procedures. He asserted that many of the accusations that were read are inaccurate and
34 were generated from Town Hall. John Leavitt stated that they were trying to get rid of her. John Leavitt
35 stated that Alfred Hanson should have recused himself from the vote relating to Ms. Frenette's reinstatement
36 because she filed a restraining order against him for an attack on her. He stated that Alfred Hanson had
37 ulterior motives to get rid of her.

38
39 Amelia Gardner asked for an update on the homeless encampment on North Road. She informed the Select
40 Board that the encampment is getting worse. Elizabeth Labbe explained that the situation is being addressed
41 and she is unable to discuss it in public. The discussion continued regarding the growing number of incidents
42 and the investigation by the State Police. Concern and frustration were expressed regarding the property
43 being owned by the town and the amount of trash accumulating on the property and the cost of cleaning up
44 the property. She asked for an update on the town's efforts to hire a welfare officer. Alfred Hanson stated
45 that they are working on it.

1 Christine Frost expressed concern for increasing the budget to take minutes and stated that any of the AI
2 options currently available could bring the cost down. Alfred Hanson stated that a change to the status of the
3 minute taker had been requested.

4

5 **VIII. Adjournment**

6 Motion to Adjourn by Michael Smith.

7 All in Favor.

8

9 The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

10

11 Respectfully submitted on 4/21/26 by Tracy Doherty
12 Edit, Judith Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst

13

DRAFT