



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 28, 2026 6:00 PM

A. 6:00 pm – Open meeting / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Alfred Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Select Board Present:

		In Person	Zoom
Alfred	Hanson Chair	X	
Richard	Bixby V Chair	X	
Michael	Smith	X	

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Present:

<u>In Person:</u>				12	<u>Zoom:</u>	
Rachel	Parsons	Christine	Frost		Osa	
Barack	Greene	Michele	Courser		Michaels Ipad	
Elizabeth	Labbe	Ginger	Marsh		OH	
Barb	Marty	Mary	Mead		Jordan	
Martha	Mical	Rebecca	Augeri		Ipad	
Russell	Smith	Bill	Hanson		lizaliness@aol.com	
Steve	Bridgewater	Herm	Blanchette		Rebecca Courser	
Karen	Coyne	Hastings	Rigollet		K Cogswell	
John	Leavitt	Judith	Newman Rogers		Sara McNeil	
Clyde	Carson					

B. Select Board Business:

a. Update on the Highway Garage

Herm Blanchette, Director of Public Works (DPW) provided an update on the Highway Garage cleanup efforts after the fire a few weeks ago. He explained that two trucks are in Westminster Vermont for interior repairs. He noted that two pickup trucks are currently undergoing repairs, one at Banks in Concord, NH and one at Hillsboro Ford in Hillsboro, NH. Herm Blanchette explained that the grader and backhoe are also undergoing repairs to the hydraulic lines and all vehicles will receive an ozone treatment. Herm Blanchette said the street sweeper will be completed soon and ready to use. Herm Blanchette spoke highly of the insurance adjusters and their motivation to resolve the issues. He thanked everyone for their support.

b. Department Heads:

i. Herm Blanchette, Grant, Schoodac Rd Barkley Brook Culvert Up Grade

Herm Blanchette spoke to the Select Board regarding a hazardous mitigation grant for Schoodac Road culvert upgrade. He stated that the grant application is due by May 5, 2026 and it is a 25/75 split. The grant total is \$185,807. Herm Blanchette stated that the town will have until July 2027 to complete the project. The

1 Town's portion will be \$46,451.75. He advised the Select Board that once he receives final approval from the
2 Governor and Council a public hearing will be scheduled.

3
4 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to accept the terms of the hazardous mitigation**
5 **grant program presented in the amount of \$139,355.25 for mitigating the local infrastructure (culvert**
6 **replacement) located at Ballard Brook on Schoodac Road. Furthermore, the Select Board**
7 **acknowledges that the total cost of this project will is \$185,807, of which the Town will be responsible**
8 **for a 25% match (\$46,451.75). Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

9
10 Chair Alfred Hanson and Rick Bixby signed the grant application. The grant application was returned to
11 Herm Blanchette.

12
13 **c. Delegation of Deposit Authority**

14 Town Treasurer Ginger Marsh distributed the revised Delegation of Deposit Authority document which
15 included language reflecting the positions delegated to deposit Town funds. Ginger Marsh stated that the
16 Select Board Administrative Assistant position is not included and Judy Newman-Rogers, in that position for
17 the past six years, agreed, saying the position creates the deposit remit. Ginger Marsh signed the document
18 along with Chair Alfred Hanson and Rick Bixby. Mike Smith refrained stating two members have signed.

19
20 **d. Cell Tower Update**

21 The Select Board discussed the possibility of scheduling a site visit to the Transfer Station with the
22 communications company. Alfred Hanson explained that the specifications of the tower design is needed to
23 finalize the repeaters. The site visit / work session will be scheduled for May 6, 2026 at 3:00 PM at the
24 Transfer Station

25
26 **e. Land Use Position**

27 Alfred Hanson stated that there have been two interested parties who have submitted applications. Alfred
28 Hanson would like to start the interview process. Barb Marty Zoning Chair and Karen Coyne Planning Board
29 Chair were asked their availability to participate in the interview process. Karen Coyne will attend via
30 Zoom.

31
32 **f. Gibson vs Town of Warner**

33 Alfred Hanson asked Planning Board Chair Karen Coyne to recap the history of the Xenakis / Gibson issue.
34 Karen Coyne explained that there were conditions on the original subdivision. She stated that Town attorneys
35 asserted a condition needed more clarity however responded with two very different positions on the matter.
36 Karen explained that Harry Seidel, Ex-officio Select Board member to the Planning Board at the time, gave
37 the direction. She stated that at that point the language was changed and the subdivision was signed off on.
38 She encouraged the Select Board to contact her if they have any questions.

39
40 **g. Ambulance Committee**

41 Alfred Hanson recapped that the Select Board formed an Ambulance Committee and Fire Chief John France
42 and Harry Seidel will attend the meetings. Clyde Carson stated that he attended the initial meeting last
43 Wednesday with Webster and Hopkinton. He explained that the purpose of the committee is to figure out
44 how the three affected towns can work together to resolve the cost issue relating to the ambulance service
45 and create an agreement that works for all three communities. He noted that the existing agreement that
46 Warner has with Hopkinton was reviewed. He stated that the town of Webster is very interested in this
47 because currently Webster does not have an agreement with Hopkinton. Clyde Carson explained that he
48 expressed that Warner would like to see more transparency in the revenue numbers and receive more details

1 into the calculations. Clyde Carson stated that Warner would also like to receive statistics on the number for
2 the Pine Rock assisted living facility.

3
4 **h. 2027 Budget Season – Department Budgets**

5 Alfred Hanson announced that the 2027 budget season is beginning. He stated that the Select Board will
6 soon provide due dates to Town department. Karen Coyne announced that the Capital Improvement Plan
7 (CIP) process will begin a month earlier this year.

8
9 **C. Select Board Other Business**

10 Alfred Hanson explained that Tracy Doherty currently a contracted minute taker for \$20/hr, has requested to
11 be a part-time employee for the Town for tax purposes. Clyde Carson advised the Select Board that there
12 would be a slight cost to the Town in the amount of \$400 for federal taxes and social security. Rick Bixby
13 stated that Tracy Doherty does good work. Alfred Hanson stated that they cannot afford to lose Tracy
14 Doherty because her efficiency is cost effective and the minutes are good.

15
16 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to hire Tracy Doherty to continue transcribing**
17 **the minutes at a pay rate of \$20/hour. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith YES**

18
19 *Discussion on the motion:* Rick Bixby noted that others have mentioned using AI to transcribe the minutes.
20 Alfred Hanson stated that could be a discussion at a later date.

21
22 **D. Public Comment**

23 - Ginger Marsh asked if the minute-taking position needed to be posted because the Select Board is
24 creating a new position. Russ Smith asked about the number of hours for the position and Rebecca Augeri
25 asked if the position was eligible for benefits. Judy Newman-Rogers explained that after the previous minute
26 taker left there was no one who was interested. Mike Smith stated that there is no reason why the Select
27 Board cannot hire a part-time interim person. Alfred Hanson agreed noting that the DPW has been allowed to
28 hire part-time help without posting the position. Mike Smith reiterated that the Select Board can continue to
29 use Tracy as an interim hourly person. Alfred Hanson agreed to rescind his previous motion to hire Tracy
30 Doherty part-time.

31
32 **Alfred Hanson made a motion second by Rick Bixby to void the motion to hire Tracy Doherty part-**
33 **time and to go through the hiring procedure and Tracy Doherty stays on as an interim. Roll Call Vote:**
34 **Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

35
36 The Board agreed to post the position, continue to contract with Tracy Doherty as an interim minute taker.
37 Alfred Hanson will look into the number of hours for minute taking for the various town boards.

- 38
39 - Barb Marty read a statement in support of Kathy Frenette. Barb Marty also disagreed with the Select
40 Board's decision to allow Sarah McNeil to read a statement at the previous Select Board meeting in
41 opposition to reinstating Kathy Frenette.
42 - Bill Hanson suggested the Select Board draft and implement a town policy regarding the use of the
43 Town's legal counsel.
44 - John Leavitt stated that he submitted a request for non-public meeting minutes but he has not received
45 a response from the Town and he has not received the minutes.
46 - Hastings Rigollet stated that it is clear that the Select Board cannot adequately manage the Town and
47 he stressed that a Town Administrator is needed.
48

- 1 - Steve Bridgewater expressed his dissatisfaction with the decisions that the Select Board is making. He
2 urged the Select Board to run the town as a business and make prudent financial decisions on behalf of
3 the taxpayers. He spoke of the importance of unity because Warner is such a small town.
4 - Rebecca Courser asked for clarification regarding a suggestion for Central NH Regional Planning
5 Commission (CNHRPC) to help Warner with land use issues at a rate of \$70/hour. Alfred Hanson
6 explained that it was an option to cover for the Land Use department until the clerk position is filled.
7 He said in speaking with the Land Use Chairs, Barb Marty and Karen Coyne, it was determined not to
8 move forward with that.
9

10 **E. Consent Agenda: April 28, 2026**

11 Motion by the Warner Select Board to approve the following or previously signed: A request to the Trustees
12 of the Trust Funds for \$1,883 from the Transfer Station Facility Capital Reserve Funds to pay an invoice
13 from Culver Technologies for network equipment upgrades.

14 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Roll**
15 **Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith Abstain**

16
17 **F. Manifest: April 28, 2026**

18 - Motion for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifests: Accounts Payable check
19 numbers 12514 through 12515 dated 4/20/2026, in the amount of \$4,383.00. Accounts Payable check
20 numbers 12516 through 12548 dated 4/22/2026, in the amount of \$47,864.79.

21 - Motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and order the Treasurer to sign the following manifests:
22 Accounts Payable check numbers 12549 through 12552 dated 4/28/2026, in the amount of \$64,111.41 for the
23 April 28th bi-weekly payroll deposits. Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4236 through 4239, and direct
24 deposit check numbers E03204 through E03237 dated 4/30/2026 for a net payroll of \$48,910.13.

25 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the April 28, 2026 Manifest as read.**
26 **Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith Abstain**

27
28 **G. Minutes: April 8, 2026 and April 14, 2026**

29 April 8, 2026 No vote taken

30 April 14, 2026

31 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the April 14, 2026 Select Board**
32 **meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAINED**

33
34 **H. Non-Public Session** if needed (RSA 91-A:3 II (a-m)) **None**

35
36 **I. Adjournment**

37 **Rick Bixby made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote Bixby**
38 **YES Hanson YES Smith YES**

39
40 The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM
41 Respectfully submitted on 5/1/26 by Tracy Doherty
42 Edits, Judith Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst.
43