



TOWN OF WARNER

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

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

Select Board Budget Work Session Minutes September 17, 2026 4:30 PM

I. Open meeting Roll Call

Chairman Alfred Hanson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Select Board present: Chairman Alfred Hanson and Vice Chair Rick Bixby and Mike Smith via Zoom.

Public present: Judy Newman-Rogers, Fire Chief Jon France, Apryl Blood, Erika Carr, Elizabeth Labbe, Molly Loz, Kimberly Edelmann via Zoom, Ed Mical and Martha Mical.

II. Department Budget Presentations

a. Parks & Recreation, Apryl Blood and Erika Carr

Weed control: increased to \$2,538

Soil Testing: no change

Misc. supplies: no change

Silver Lake Park: No change

Audio difficulties

Riverside Park: increase for tennis court repairs, the tennis court repairs should be done every 5 years.

Signage: No change

Striping of fields: slight increase

Infield Mix: increased to \$32 per ton

Total for Improvements and Maintenance is \$21,000

Mileage: no change

Sanitation: no change

Water testing: no change

Wage: no change

Seasonal Employee: no change

Total budget increase 29%. Alfred Hanson requested a copy of last year's budget. Rick Bixby inquired about the year to date expenditures. Apryl Blood stated \$18,615. Apryl Blood stated that last year equipment maintenance was removed from her budget.

Audio difficulties resolved.

b. Human Services (Welfare), Molly Loz

Telephone: \$750 (termination fee)

Hardware: \$1 placeholder

Software: \$1 placeholder

Managed IT: \$1 placeholder

Membership: No change

Mileage: \$100

Direct Assistance: \$40,000

Alfred Hanson stated that in 2024 the department spent \$46,000 and in 2025 it decreased tremendously.

Molly Loz explained that in 2024 a lien that occurred. She stated that when the property is sold the Town will collect the money back. Elizabeth Labbe informed the Select Board that in 2024 the Town housed an

individual until the person found an apartment. She further noted that for 2023 and 2024 the town paid direct assistance for a medically compromised person. Molly Loz advised the Select Board that since she started she has reviewed the cases to verify eligibility, one individual was removed. Molly Loz stated that she is revamping the application process and is requiring everyone to requalify. She spoke about the importance of being diligent in collecting the necessary proof that the applicant needs these services. She stressed that the assistance is temporary help.

c. **Tax Collector, Kimberly Edelmann**

Deputy Wages: increase to \$3,000, Kimberly explained that she should be an employee and because she is not an employee she does not get vacation time. She explained that in order for her to take a vacation she pays the Deputy Tax Collector out of her own pocket to ensure office coverage. She asserted that the Deputy should be paid more so that when the office experiences peaks or she is sick there will be continuity.

Wages: recommending to decrease; she would like to implement an Online Kiosk. She stated that the cost for an online kiosk would come from her wages and moved to computer software for the kiosk. Kimberly Edelmann explained that with the cost of the kiosk and reduction of her wages it will be a flat budget. She indicated that she is not requesting a cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Computer Hardware: \$1 placeholder

Computer Software: \$2850 (kiosk)

Managed IT: \$1 placeholder

Tax Lien Research: estimated at 70 liens

Avitar printing paper: no change

Office Supplies: increase by \$100

Postage: slight increase

Meetings/Seminars: slight increase

Kimberly Edelmann explained that there has been a significant increase in the amount of interest collected, currently at \$43,000. The total proposed Tax Collector budget is \$37.00 less than last year.

Alfred Hanson asked for clarification on the kiosk and public tax information. Kimberly Edelmann explained that by default tax information would be public. She stated that individuals can request that their information not be available online. Alfred Hanson asked if this should be a decision made at town meeting. Kimberly Edelman agreed. He asked how that would affect the wages. Kimberly Edelmann explained that she feels strongly that the Deputy wages should still increase by \$3,000. She reiterated that years ago the town voted to treat the Tax Collector position like an employee and employees receive vacation time but as a stipend position, Tax Collector does not receive vacation time and her wages remains flat at \$45,000. Alfred Hanson questioned the ability to reduce her wages since the voters approved her salary increase at town meeting. Kimberly Edelmann stressed that she would be happy to present the online kiosk information and a reduction to her wages at town meeting. Judy Newman-Rogers asked about the credit card payment machines. Judy Newman-Rogers inquired if there should be demonstration of the online kiosk. Kimberly Edelmann explained that the Avitar online kiosk does provide a payment method, she stated the credit card machines can be eliminated. She stated that the Town of Hopkinton could be looked at for a reference of the online kiosk. Mike Smith asked if the Town of Bradford utilizes the online kiosk. Kimberly Edelmann confirmed Bradford does use the Avitar online kiosk. She spoke to the benefits of the online kiosk for property transfers. She explained that making the information available online is very helpful to the public and would reduce the office hours. Judy Newman-Rogers explained that it is similar to property record cards. She explained that most people go to the website for property records and when they discover the property records are not available online, they call, email or come in to town hall. Kimberly Edelmann concurred. She stated that most people expect to find the information online. Alfred Hanson asked how much time she would spend on redacting information online. Kimberly Edelmann explained that it is checking a box. She elaborated on the need to update the information to the kiosk daily.

Alfred Hanson asked the Select Board for their position whether or not to add the online kiosk in the budget or as a warrant article. Mike Smith stated that the Select Board has been discussing this for several years and he does not feel that it needs to wait for a warrant article. Rick Bixby stated that he believes this is something worth trying. Alfred Hanson stated that he feels this should be a warrant article.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Mike Smith that the amount of \$2,850 will remain in the 2027 operating budget of the Tax Collector. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson NO

Judy Newman-Rogers stated since the online kiosk was not on the agenda, she suggested the Select Board add this topic to the agenda for September 29, 2026 to make the public aware. Martha Mical explained it can remain in the budget and still be a warrant article. Alfred Hanson concurred.

d. Fire Department, Jon France

Stipends: no change

Wages: no change

Telephone: no change

Computer Hardware: \$1 placeholder

Computer Software: increased to \$2250

Managed IT: \$1 placeholder

Electricity: increased to \$12,000

Propane: \$1.51 per gallon (\$3,200)

Water / Sewer: no change

Equipment Maintenance: increase to \$7,800

Supplies: no change

Printer Ink: no change

Vehicle fuel: no change

Truck maintenance: no change

New replaced equipment: reduced to \$21,450

In-house training: no change

Mileage: no change

Fire expenses: no change

Hydrant replacement: no change

Fire Prevention: no change

Firefighter training: no change

Dispatch Service: increased to \$37,330

Radios: no change

Building Maintenance: no change

Forest fire: no change

Jon France explained that calls for service have dropped for the high of over 600 calls to 373 so far this year.

III. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM

Respectfully submitted on 9/24/26 by Tracy Doherty

Edit, Judith Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst.