TOWN OF WARNER

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

Select Board Budget Work Session Minutes
October 13, 2026

I. 5:00 PM Open meeting Roll Call

Chairman Alfred Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
Select Board present:

	In Person	Zoom	Absent
Chair Alfred Hanson	X		
V-Chair Rick Bixby	X		
Michael Smith			X

II. Non-Public Session RSA 91-a:3 II - c Matters which if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Motion: **Bixby**
Second: **Hanson**
Roll Call: **Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSENT**

The Select Board entered Non-Public Session at 5:03 PM
The Select Board returned to public session at 5:40 PM, Alfed Hanson motioned for a recess until 6:00 pm, Rick Bixby second. Roll call vote: Hanson Yes, Bixby Yes, Mike Smith ABSENT Motion Passed

III. Continue Public Meeting

Alfred Hanson called the public meeting to order 6:04 PM
Others Present:

In Person:	Zoom
Judy Newman-Rogers	Michael Miller
Martha Mical	Maryann
Ed Mical	
David Carle	
Herm Blanchette	

IV. Select Board Business

a. Departments:

Highway to provide an update on the Highway Garage

Herm Blanchette explained that he received an updated timeline for the Highway Garage. He stated that January 15th 2027 is the estimated date of completion. Herm Blanchette and Alfred Hanson expressed their disappointment with the delayed date of completion. Herm Blanchette advised the Select Board that he

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contacted Primex and Primex will contact Insuracom. Alfred Hanson questioned the length of the delay. Herm Blanchette explained that he is noting all the issues. He suggested that the Select Board step in. The Select Board agreed to meet with Primex and Insuracom to resolve the issues.

Herm Blanchette informed the Select Board that two trucks have been returned to the department after being repaired. He stated that the new truck should be delivered by Thanksgiving.

Alfred Hanson asked Herm Blanchette for his thoughts on the new DRAFT bridge policy. Herm Blanchette stated that he read the policy and feels that it is well written. Alfred Hanson explained that the Select Board had received several complaints about the misuse of the covered bridges and the policy is intended to protect the Town. David Carle explained that in the past he wrote to the Select Board regarding fishing on the covered bridges. Alfred Hanson explained that the Police Chief will be submitting his input and the policy will then be sent to legal counsel for review. Ed Mical suggested adding the bridge policy to a future agenda for a public discussion. Alfred Hanson explained that there will be a public hearing.

b. Elizabeth Labbe North Road clean up

Elizabeth Labbe advised the Select Board that the clean up on North Road is complete. She will come to a future meeting with a presentation. Alfred Hanson inquired who signed off on the hazardous materials, he stated that should be handled by the Code Enforcement department. Elizabeth Labbe stated that she signed off and she worked with Town resident Steve Riale, previously the Code Compliance Officer in Franklin NH. Alfred Hanson questioned if Warner has code enforcement. Elizabeth Labbe explained that Steve is training her. Alfred Hanson asked if Steve would be willing to speak at the next meeting to advise the Select Board about what Warner needs for code enforcement.

Elizabeth Labbe will ask him. She advised the Select Board that the property will be posted prohibiting camping and dumping. Alfred Hanson asked if Market Basket has been notified that the encampment has moved to the Market Basket property. The Select Board agreed to send a letter to Market Basket to advise them of the latest developments.

V. Select Board Other Business

a. Warner Firefighters Association Raffle request.

The Select Board granted the request for the Warner Firefighters Association's annual turkey raffle.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to grant the request of the Warner Firefighters Association to hold their annual turkey raffle. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSENT

b. Logging of Town owned land:

Rick Bixby stated that he is looking at a few parcels owned by the Town and he is interested in logging the timber to generate some revenue. Alfred Hanson asked Rick Bixby to contact the town forester Tim Wallace.

c. Easement:

Alfred Hanson stated that at the last meeting the Select Board heard from Eric Sargeant, NH Department of Transportation regarding an easement. He explained that there are three other parcels in the same situation. He explained that one of the parcels, he owns. Another parcel was owned by Martha Mical's father and the third parcel is owned by the Town of Warner. He stressed that the 3 properties do not have an easement.

d. Outsourcing Payroll:

Alfred Hanson provided an update on the outsourcing of payroll. He explained that this has been challenging. He stated that the legislative body voted for petition warrant article 7, the outsourcing of payroll, but neglected to fund it. Alfred Hanson explained that this turns into the prudential affairs of the

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Select Board. He explained that the Select Board must follow the rules and laws. He stressed that the Select Board is moving forward. He stated that the Select Board is meeting with CheckMate tomorrow and will be transitioning from the current method to CheckMate. Alfred Hanson explained that it is very important to him that employee paychecks are accurate. He stated that there will be a series of meetings with CheckMate. He addressed the funding issue for the next five months. He is apprehensive about the funding through the current operating budget. He explained that the best option is to start the outsourcing of payroll in January 2027. Rick Bixby stated that makes sense to him. Alfred Hanson reiterated that this is moving forward.

VI. Public Comment

David Carle spoke to the Select Board regarding the vacant Town Administrator position. He explained that there are items that the Select Board is addressing that would be more appropriately handled by a town administrator (outsourcing payroll). David Carle stated that the Town needs a Town Administrator. He stated that there needs to be a job description developed. Alfred Hanson assured David Carle that he has been researching the best path forward. David Carle reiterated that there needs to be communication on the matter. Alfred Hanson assured him that this is not on the back burner. David Carle stated that he has the outline of the process that was followed in the past. Alfred Hanson explained that he is conscientious of the money that will be spent, he reiterated that he is working on it. Alfred Hanson stated that operationally the town is currently on track in large part. David Carle urged the Select Board to communicate regarding the process. He urged the Select Board to continue to move forward.

Martha Mical informed the Select Board that microphones and related equipment are needed. Judy Newman-Rogers will work with Ed Mical and Travis Downs, Building Maintenance.

Alfred Hanson stated that at the next meeting Herm Blanchette and Travis Downs will be presenting the Select Board with information regarding the maintenance of town buildings. He stressed that it took six years to get the sprinkler system installed and functional in Town Hall. He asserted that things need to change to protect the town buildings.

VII. Consent Agenda for October 13, 2026

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

A request to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for:

--A. $6,500.00 from the Bridge Repair / Replace Capital Reserve Fund to pay the invoice from Mitchie Concrete Products.

--B. $6,085.00 from the Transfer Station Facility Capital Reserve Fund to pay the invoice from Capital Well for a water filtration system.

--C. $3,866.80 from the Employee Health Expendable Trust Fund to pay invoices from Health Trust.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the October 13, 2026 consent agenda items B and C (water filtration system and the expendable trust fund). Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES

The Select Board requested additional information on item A (Bridge Repair/Replace Capital Reserve fund).

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to request additional information from Clyde Carson or Herm Blanchette regarding the $6,500.00 Bridge Repair/Replace Capital Reserve fund. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Bixby YES

VIII. Manifest

Motion for October 13, 2026 for the Select Board to approve the following previously signed manifests:

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Accounts Payable check numbers 13014 through 13016 dated 9/29/2026, in the amount of $62,619.94 for the October 1st bi-weekly payroll deposits.
Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4313 through 4317, and direct deposit check numbers E03563 through E03597 dated 10/1/2026 for a net payroll of $47,944.31.
Accounts Payable check number 13017 through 13020 dated 9/27/2026, in the amount of $5,925.17.
Accounts Payable check numbers 13021 through 13022 dated 10/5/2026, in the amount of $27,269.56 for the October 7th quarterly payroll deposits.
Quarterly payroll check numbers 4318 through 4340, and direct deposit check numbers E03589 through E03604 dated 10/7/2026 for a net payroll of $21,800.94.
Accounts Payable check number 13023 through 13071dated 10/8/2026, in the amount of $1,073,106.93, which includes a monthly payment to the Kearsarge Regional School District of $700,000.00.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the October 13, 2026 Manifest as read. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES

Motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and order the Treasurer to sign the following manifests:
Accounts Payable check numbers 13072 through 13074 dated 10/13/2026, in the amount of $63,032.38, for the October 15th bi-weekly payroll deposits.
Bi-weekly payroll check numbers 4341 through 4353, and direct deposit check numbers E03605 through E03634 dated 10/15/2026 for a net payroll of $49,181.87.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the October 13, 2026 Manifest as read. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES

Martha Mical asked if there was a reason why Mike Smith is not in attendance tonight. Alfred Hanson explained that he has not heard from Mike Smith. He noted that he did not attend two non-public meetings last week and two non-public meetings this week and tonight's meeting.

IX. Minutes September 16, 2026 September 17, 2026 and September 29, 2026
No action taken.

X. Non-Public Session

XI. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM
Respectfully submitted on 10/19/26 by Tracy Doherty
Edits, Judith A Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst.

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