

**Select Board Meeting
January 20, 2026
Andover Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.**

Weekly Meeting called to order by BM at 6:02 p.m. followed by flag salute.

Meeting Attendance

Select Board - Brian Mills (BM), Justin Thacker (JT), Frederick Detheridge (FD)

Select Board Secretary - Susan Mills

Select Board Updates

Justin

- Left a message with the neighbor, Mr. Brown, about the tree – we are working on quotes – referred him to town number
- Appreciate the positive comments regarding personal situation

Brian

- Have not heard back from DOT on the bridge payments – email out to Josh at FEMA for avenue to go back and get reimburse – who owns the road surface over the bridge – if state owned, they should have paid or if the town does, it should have been included in the FEMA reimbursement
- Jeremy Peru on the engineering stuff – will contact him to find out why we continue to get on-going bills for the box culvert – it isn't an open invitation to change the plan and send us a bill for it that we have not approved to be done – it is not an open invitation to change things in the plan and charging us

Fred

- Looking forward to GA training

Department Heads

Amber Cooper, Treasurer

- Nine foreclosure letters were sent out last week; this number is lower than past year's mailings
- Benji Sanborn looked at the tree and spoke with Mark Brown; Sue will reach out to Benji to request he submit an estimate

Per Tripp, Road Commissioner

- We have one truck down – getting parts tomorrow and we will start working on it
- We have old equipment. I am getting quotes for another truck – plowing snow with a 21-year-old truck is rough – we are having to put things out of commission, put it in front of the voters
- BM – to finance another new truck is going to be a tough sell – unfortunately the Town has elected for cheaper options and run the fleet down
 - PT – when you run down your fleet – bubble gumming it – how long do you do that? Especially at 3 a.m. breaking down and walking home like I did this past week
 - BM – we need to put more money away, \$10K a year doesn't keep up with the cost of equipment
 - JT – have you looked at doing a 5-year plan? PT – I have a plan going
- (Josh H) - There is a tree on Wyman Hill that is in the road right away that has been a concern for a while right after Matt Littlehale's, right before corner on right. It needs a contractor to remove it, as it is next to wires.
 - BM – we seem to be overrun with tree work but there is nothing budgeted for it we will add it to this year's Town Meeting to be voted on
 - JH - CMP rotates clipping back every 4 years; if it is within a 10-foot circle they will top it off until it is a communication line issue, but with this tree the issue is at its base and the line is on the other side of the tree

- BM – insurances will not pay for trees taking it down, they only pay if it creates damage
- Sand/salt update – we have ample sand however the salt situation is different – trying to be light with it, I ordered more on Monday
 - JT - Any additional concerns regarding the sand pile other than the tractor loading event and/or people access it from the incorrect side? PT – nothing aware of, will put the signs in the appropriate spots – they blew away and add barricades
- BM - do you know a company that can give us some specs for salt sheds?
 - PT – I have got some information there are a couple options, also asking about the wetlands – if keeping it in same spot we are good on zoning but if it is moved, we are not – there is no available funding to assist with building a shed at this time
- Dog sign on the common – please return the signs to the Common due to dog issues
- Town Garage door was ordered and should be here soon

Employee

Josh Hogdson

Board/Committee Members

None

Citizens/Requests

Margaret Madigan - none

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion** made to accept the Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026, by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – Not all members had reviewed the minutes, vote delayed until 1/27 meeting

Financial Warrant #30

- **Motion to pay CMP** in the amount of \$1,709.67 made by BM, seconded by FD
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay CN Brown** in the amount of \$1,090.20 made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – BM – The Town Office oil tank fill deck was loose, so I corrected it. Secretary will follow up with CN Brown office to have someone look at it.
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay GPE** in the amount of \$1,881 made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – Payment #9 – Town buildings and auto insurance
Vote - Carried
- **Motion to pay Steve Swasey, Inc.** the amount of \$1,125.00 made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – AC – this is two bills combined – the one last week and another bill.
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay the remainder of Warrant 30** made by BM, seconded by FD
Vote - Carried

Wage Warrant #30

- **Motion to pay Wage Warrant #30** in the amount of \$9,137.50 made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – AC - we no longer need to vote on a correction (new this year); because we pay less than \$50K in a quarter in adjustments
Vote - Carried

- **Motion to pay \$50 adjustment** to the State of Maine for warrant 29 made by BM seconded by FD
Discussion – new ACO needs to take the training within 6 months of hire
Vote – Carried

Old Business

- **Sign Thank You Letter for Volunteer**
Discussion – Completed
- **Cell Phone Policy**
Discussion – JT - We were going to compare lists, everything else we reached agreement on.
BM – what is going to be valid for reimbursement usage? JT – monthly rate – I think 8 hours of use per month is reasonable; the towns that do this use the honor system, AC - was the wording up to \$30 or straight out \$30?
JT – full \$30 as reimbursement for to be determined amount of hours per the recommendation of state statute. Policy is based on usage vs. availability. Detailed report of usage logged and turned in with request.
BM – currently only the T/O has funding; JT - beyond the Town Office/Select Board, the positions for reimbursement are CEO, ACO, Custodian, Transfer Station; AC – should these monies come from the budget or from Gen Gov funds? JT - From their budget. FD – let the department heads decide who gets them and they must come up with the money. SM – the Transfer Station doesn't have a phone for safety or emergency use wouldn't that count regardless of usage? BM - The voters only voted on the Town Office technology account; do we need to specify who is using it? BM – fine with doing for other departments but most of the discussion was about Town Office. JT – we can order the EMA/Town Office phone and can be used for bank runs, etc. JT – we need to finalize both pieces of policy – one for using a town phone as well as who gets reimbursement. We need to add information in the policy regarding state statutes in using a phone (legal, not deleting text messages, no Facebook postings, etc.) for work purposes and getting reimbursed. BM – can we combine them? JT – yes. See tape for full discussion.
- **Stickney Email**
Motion we send to Mrs. Stickney a courtesy letter informing her we voted to go with recommendation of O'Donnell's and deny her request made by JT and seconded by BM
Discussion – BM – I went back and looked at Matt's recommendation and the law and I don't know if we want to drop them a note stating that the local Board of Assessors review or the Oxford County commissioners did not provide timely written response, the request is to be deemed denied 60 days from the appeal just to show documentation; FD – do we change anything by responding at this point? BM – the process for her remains the same, we do not want to have open dialogue individually, we have been consistent with taking recommendation of O'Donnell's in the past. The board was full when we voted on this. JT – she is just wondering where we are and instead of making a change and going with the recommendation we are not required to respond, but it would be a courtesy to. BM – I will write a response restating the recommendation and our vote and send it in an email to Mrs. Stickney
Vote – Carried

Executive Session

- **1 MRSA 405(6)A)**
Motion made to enter Executive Session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) at 7:14 p.m. made by BM, seconded by JT.
Discussion – None.
Vote - Carried

Exited Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

Motion to add \$1,320 as voted on at Town Meeting for 60 hours for physical year to new salary wage of \$25,520 by BM, seconded by JT
Discussion – Adds 1.15 hours per week
Vote - Carried

Adjustments to Agenda

- **MMA Legal Response on Non-Profit**
Discussion – did you all see the response from MMA on nonprofit? JT/FD – Yes; BM - put on the agenda for week after next – invite the Pineland Ski & Outing Club members to attend; Did the club provide anything on 501c? SM - Yes, Rick Mills did the research and found the deed is filed with the registry of deeds under Arthur Lange under 1934 – 1936 early files and they also provided their State of Maine filing as nonprofit for last 3 years (23, 24, 25 ends May 2026).
- **Set next date for PPO Workshop**
Discussion - February 24 at 5 p.m.; JT to draft the discussion changes from today: Next meeting agenda items will be. JT – holiday pay, Maine State holidays are listed there, but we are missing Federal holidays, and we don't have Patriots Day in April, so we are missing that. People have brought it up for the library and the Town Office. We do say federally observed in our policy.
 - 1) Review changes previously discussed
 - 2) EPL
 - 3) Holiday's State & Federal
- **Next Solar Moratorium Committee Meeting**
Discussion – next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.; BM - The meeting was tense as there was a motion by Sid Pew and second by Tim Johnson to bump it the square footage up to 12,000 and the following discussion the motioned failed. We need to get things in black and white, so I have started a rough draft to get it to the attorney – we need to hold a straw vote as a committee, and we have not done that and whether or not we are going to put any setback or buffer zone for small scale into the ordinance. Hopefully we can get it done by next week's meeting. There was some discussion between me and Justin mainly around only allowing ground mount depending on how your system faces; if we allow a variance for it, it may help. Did you see the email from MMA on the Comprehensive Plan conflicting with small scale? We could end up in court for it, but if we add a variance for it, we may not have to worry about that.
- **Abatement Request**
Motion to approve abatement for Christopher Collins for Map 15, Lot 17, Sub 3 for \$675 made by BM, seconded by JT
Vote – Carried

Other

- **Rec Committee Meeting Minutes**
Discussion – FD – concerns with them telling the board what they are doing, they should do the leg work and come to us for input; BM – they want us to tell them where to put it and ask the fire department to flood it for them, no sure where the informal survey took place recommending the Common; do have concerns regarding the plaque dedications – it is a wonderful idea, but the possibility of it happening to an extent we are not prepared for (i.e. people requesting additional benches) concerned it could be an issue moving forward?
Vote - Carried
- **Safe Voices Thank You**
Discussion – FD – nice to have received a thank you letter
Vote - Carried

- **Cancer Resource Center Thank You Discussion** – Noted

Adjournment

- **Motion** made to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by BM, JT seconded
Vote – Carried

Approved by:

Brian Mills

Brian Mills, Chair

Date: 1-27-26

Justin Thacker

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Frederick Detheridge

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