

Select Board Meeting Agenda
January 27, 2026
Andover Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

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

Select Board Secretary - Susan Mills

Guests

Leeann Condon (LC), Superintendent of Schools

Department Heads/Employees

Melinda Averill (MA), Town Clerk

- Is the cell phone policy done yet? The people voted last June to approve it and it seems to be taking a long time; BM is within our (select board) realm of responsibility to create a policy and what we are going to do within that policy; the board is voting on the cell phone policy tonight
- We have discussed having two separate printer's vs current contracts (Kyocera), BM - do they make something better than Walmart value? Same company, different? FD to bring a recommendation forward next week.

Citizens

Maragret Madigan (MM)

Joan Forrester (JF)

Planning Board

Sidney Pew (SP) – we will have one meeting in January and one in February due to how the Monday holidays fall.

Reporter

Rose Lincoln, Bethel Citizen and spouse

Meeting called to order by BM at 6:01 p.m. followed by flag salute.

Select Board Updates

Justin

- Shout out to the road crew for their efforts and dedication around the clock this past weekend. Great job
- GA state mandated training is coming up and we have to attend at least one per year to keep credentials I will attend the 2/12/26 session from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on foundations of GA by the State

Brian

- Emailed MMA regarding zoning (re solar) and creation of a historical district area
- Email from Oxford Country on the training for EMA directors, fire chiefs G402 course – if interested 2/10 at Paris Fire Departments
- Signed paperwork for 4737 FEMA for admin costs for disaster of 2023

Fred

- Nothing new to report

Citizen Requests

None

Department/Committee Reports

None

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion** made to accept the Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026, by BM, seconded by JT
Vote – Abstained JT – absent from meeting; Carried
- **Motion** made to accept the Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2026, by BM, seconded by JT
Vote - Carried

Financial Warrant #31

- None to approve

Wage Warrant #31

- **Motion to pay Wage Warrant #31** in the amount of \$7,992.61 made by BM, seconded by FD
Vote - Carried

Old Business

- **Cell Phone Policy & Sign Out Sheet**
Motion made to accept the cell phone policy and sign out sheet policy (with the update of adding destination to the sheet) made by Brian and seconded by JT
Discussion – JT – final draft for overall policy is done, presented a sign out policy draft and put in specifics and a sign out sheet for the office phone. The proposed policy and the sign out policy were read aloud. FD recommended adding the destination of where users were going when signing out the phone (i.e. training in Augusta)
Vote – Carried
- **Tree Estimate Near Fire Station**
Motion to approve and hire BJ Sanford to remove tree and debris for \$1,200 from prof services by BM, seconded by JT/FD
Discussion - We have received an estimate of \$1,200 to remove the tree and all debris; *Meeting Minutes amended 2/3/26 to include the following: money to be taken from professional services account*
Vote – Carried

New Business

- **School Financial Update (Leeann)**
Discussion – shared information regarding Homesteading project as they are trying to find a niche to attract students to the school who are currently attending other facilities or homeschoolers – we are finding the homestead is of interest. BM can you elaborate on it? Homestead grant \$3,000 to create a big garden with fruit trees and flowers and vegetables, bushes, the kids are involved in all aspects of it. Tending was a learning experience. It is a unique project, and we are hoping there is a draw for this.

Absenteeism was discussed. LC - The Maine model of School Support (an accountability system) tracks how we do on state tests and absenteeism and take the date from prior June and figure out status for the next year to establish growth targets but results are not provided until January. Our current status is not identified for support - that is what we want. A child is considered 'chronic' if 10 days are missed – we try to send work with those going on vacation and value learning experiences. JT - is there advocacy opportunities to present

before the state to tighten this issue? LC- the state level has all kinds of plans, and they ask you to take classes and we are taking classes and developed a plan for example, if a student misses 5 days the teacher calls, 6 days, the principal calls, 7 days the superintendent calls them. There are no rules about missing class and passing. The parent must agree to retention and letters are sent to the DHS.

Tuition report appears like only 26% was spent, but first half tuition hasn't all been billed.

Enrollment is 21, with 67 students PreK – 12; JT - does that includes homeschoolers? LC - no, just who we pay for, hearing rumors that it is being shared that the budget is just for the PreK – 5 school. BM - it is put out clearly by the board members it is a K-12 school budget. SM - The amount of money listed under contracted services (\$62,000) was questioned if it would be possible for the school to work with the Town to create a full-time Treasurer position at the Town to handle both the school and town finances to reduce costs. LC – noted that SM posed this question at one school board at a budget meeting last spring. The town accounting/finances and school finances rules and laws are very different. The person we have specializes in education, we almost never have to call a lawyer, she writes all our budget warrant articles, and she works as an HR person - she answers questions. BM - if we have a program with the qualifications, are you not opposed? LC - The information the state likes to see you pull reports that is generated from the NEO; BM – there are a lot of people (schools) who use that system and the state system it feeds into, it can be done.

Web site – LC - we are working to update our site, but it has been difficult to find a resource to assist. Please call us vs using the site for updated information.

Future budgetary – BM – moving forward from a budgetary stance: 1) where do you see the number of students? LC - looks like it will be about the same as this year, 2) should we expect any big money items? LC – no, however, the costs have skyrocketed for the food program, our culinary employee is very frugal and still the pricing is doing us in.

Choosing other school options - JT – for those that are going out of district, why are they (parents) taking them out? We have approximately 13 homeschoolers? Do we keep track of students who don't come to our school? LC – K-8 we gave two students who come here from outside our district, and we fought against the parents choosing to send their children to SAD 44 and us having to pay outside tuition. Often the reasons is there is no way to get to my child to the school due to working location; we offer after school care 5 days a week and early staffing at 7:30 a.m., our out of town students – K-8 pay the same tuition regardless of their educational (IEP) needs.

- **Budget Committee Appointment – Carla Kingston**
Motion made to appoint Carla Kingston to the Budget Committee made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – replaces the resident who declined his appointment
Vote - Carried
- **Kyes Insurance Questionnaire**
Discussion – FD – will pass along to Jim to respond
- **Deputy Treasurer Application**
Motion we set up an interview time for the applicant for Deputy Treasurer next week at 5 p.m. made by BM, seconded by JT
Discussion – received application for the Deputy Treasurer job; Treasurer has requested to participate in the interview
Vote - Carried

Other

- **Spurwink Thank You**

Discussion – Noted as received; SM shared that the funding had been sent out mid-January and thank you letters are starting to arrive. They will be filed with the 2026 Town Meeting planning documents for the Budget Committee to review

- **Andover Food Pantry Thank You**

Discussion – Noted as received

- **LifeFlight of Maine Thank You**

Discussion – Noted as received

Adjustment to Agenda

- **Board & Budget Committee**

Discussion – BM – the board needs to sit down and discuss needs sidewalks, salt sheds, Town Hall, ramps, Town Office ramp, etc., items we will want department heads to put in their budget before presenting to the committee

- **AOHD Committee Chair Position**

Discussion - JT - should we have Sue list on the web site appointments are open for the committee chair?
BM - Yes

- **February 10th – Review of MMA Legal Advice on Non Profit/Taxation**

Discussion –SM - Club President Rick Mills was made aware today, 1/27/26, the club has been asked to attend the 2/10 meeting. The board will review the email MMA legal provided regarding nonprofit land/taxation. Rick stated there was no need to send a letter to the club as he was president and would let the others know about the meeting, he could represent them.

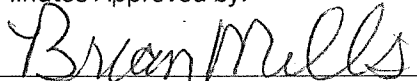
Executive Session

None

Adjournment

- **Motion** made to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. by BM, FD seconded
Vote – Carried

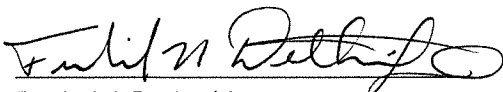
Minutes Approved by:



Brian Mills, Chair

Date: 2-2-26

Justin Thacker



Frederick Detheridge

Task List for 1/27/26:

On-going

- Earned Pay Leave policy
- Town Clerk Pay
- Town Hall Ramp (1/13/26)

Brian

- Following up with Josh/FEMA/District Manager regarding state bridge surface questions

Justin

- Cell Phone Policy updated and shared with board and secretary
- Victualers and Lodging Policy
- Attend 2/12 GA training

Fred

- Working on updates to Personnel Policy Ordinance for employee workshop; next meeting is 2/24/26
- Review Town Office TRIO printer and make a recommendation next meeting
- Attend 2/10 GA training (zoom)

Sue

- Look at cell phone purchase options for EMA/Town Office
- Invite Pineland Ski Club to Feb 10th meeting to review MMA Find on Non Profits (done 1/27/26 – in person, R Mills)
- Emailed to Joe Cline one (1) 4737 FEMA for admin costs for disaster of 2023 signed 1/27/26
- Create appointment confirmation letter for Carla Kington for board to sign/send

Per

- Speed sign to White's property
- Incident Report on Town Hall Ramp