

**Select Board Meeting
February 17, 2026
Andover Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by BM, followed by flag salute.

Attendance

Selectboard- Brian Mills, Justin Thacker, Frederick Detheridge
Secretary, Sue Mills
Treasurer, Amber Cooper
Treasurer Candidate Darci Newman

Executive Session 1MRSA 405 (6) A

- **Motion** made to enter Executive Session for 1 MRSA § 405 (6) A - personnel matters at 5:01 p.m. made by BM, seconded by JT
Vote – Carried

Exited Executive Session at 5:43 p.m.

Discussion – no motion currently, pending reference checks

Regular Weekly Meeting called to order at 5:47 p.m. by BM

Attendance

Select Board - Brian Mills (Chair - BM), Justin Thacker (JT), Frederick Detheridge (FD)
Select Board Secretary – Sue Mills (SM)

Department Heads/Employees

Amber Cooper (AC), Treasurer

- JT - will the Deputy Treasurer be ready for your vacation? AC – Yes

Melinda Averill, Town Clerk

- Wondering about the abatement appeal (provided 2/10/26) – JT – waiting for response; MA – I will reach out to the current owner to let them know we are waiting on a response from MMA
- Public Works (agenda item) – this is for projects already started like the multi-use court, Town Office reno, Town Hall sidewalk, etc., I don't mind working on it, there are five (5) different categories awarding money
- Town meeting date? JT - tentative dates of 5/30 or 6/6 – needs to be prior to June 9 for solar vote

Per Tripp

- Looking to post roads to match up with Oxford County (Tony Carter) and Rumford (Dale Roberts) who are posting on Monday, March 2nd. BM- we usually post roads around the first of March *and remove them by May 1st*, can you please let Tony know we do not post with a frost clause? PT - they are aware and I will send a message to the truckers up there to remind them. Hopefully they will be good. JT – how long does the posting last? BM - we can vote to take them down at any time.
- I have been working with Mark (Transfer Station) as the backhoe is acting up again. Mark is helping to get it diagnosed. I called Bouchard today and I also know other companies and I can talk with Swasey (John Larsen) and at least get it diagnosed
- Potential will be down an employee late spring due to life changes, he is willing to work through Memorial Day.
Note – will hold off from posting this opportunity at this time

- Posting a seasonal job for mowing lawn? AC – budgeted under public works and cemetery; BM do we have enough for 40 hours a week? PT - 20 hours a week was planned last season; AC – those two budgets is based on the road commission salary and the seasonal salary is not the same.
- Budget – Amber and I have a meeting to fine tune things next Thursday
 - Have gotten some quotes on adding a transfer switch for the town generator (1945)
 - Building needs: Called Hussey (Town Office contractor), we budgeted for trim work last year and the leaking roof, but we had to spend some on the door bottom seals and track springs.
 - Sand/Salt: The sand pile location is a problem as the wind locks up the pile; 420 tons of salt was ordered for this year, we are over and hopefully we won't need to order more. BM – do you think if we have some money available to purchase more to mix the sand and the salt this summer? PT – I do plan to mix it again this summer
 - Road work: The backhoe is down, a lot of ditching needs to be done and some culverts, will get some quotes, should be doing this in house, looking to possibly renting it and someone to haul it
 - Long term planning / comprehensive? Replace the 1989, 2005 truck is worn, we are always working on wear and tear items, another good used truck is needed; long term new equipment funding \$50K is a good start as we know \$10K is not going to get us anywhere long term; we also need to look at another excavator or backhoe
 - AC – are you going to ask for anything for the designated road account? PT - we will talk about that

Citizens

Candace Casey, Margaret Madigan

Select Board Updates

Brian

- Sent email to our attorney regarding the Solar Ordinance and to the State asking for clarification on who owns the road over the town bridges on State roads and who is responsible for ditching, etc. they seem to be avoiding these questions
- Sent email to Matt (O'Donnells) regarding a town reval and tree growth - I do know that if we have to bid out the reval as required by policy, if we do, O'Donnell's has shared the cost will be very different then if we do not

Justin

- Met with Fred today to start discussion on working together, went over budget and application process, recent training, audit this spring, working on updating the G/A book and Fred will post hours for 10 hours a week; upcoming: March 11th training, and required training in May
- Sent emails to MMA regarding the Stickney abatement question (payment by current owner vs previous owner fined sending it to appeals) and the CD for the Cemetery Committee (2/13), due to the holiday it is taking a little longer than usually for them to get back to me
- Jackie Gammon sent email to our old account stating she is resigning from the Solar Committee because of her schedule
- Eileen Pew sent an email to the old account and to Brian's account to update us that electrician Bob Susbury will provide a quote for electrical costs at the library

Fred

- Will sign up for advanced training on immigration set for March 11th

Citizen Requests

Candace Casey –Has The Cabin situation been resolved? BM - The Cabin in East Andover? The Code Enforcement and the Health Officers were sent to investigate the issues and to our knowledge, both were resolved. CC – so they contacted the state and provided information to them? BM – they did and did what they needed to do for that piece of property. CC - How do I get a copy of them? BM – Meeting minutes at the Town Office

Sue Mills – Safety concern of the plowed snow from adjoining property is up to the fence and snowmobilers are driving over the damaged fence vs using the open end of the fence put up to protect town property – is it an item the board has acted on or has anyone else notice it? BM – the board has addressed this in the past and sent letters; the fence was put up to stop people from parking on the ball field; the fence was run into by a distributor truck last fall. The connecting property owners continue to push snow onto the Town of Andover side of the shared property line toward the dugout and towards the playground set; we have sent, I believe, two letters. I guess the next step the board could ask the contractor who plows it, Swasey Excavation, not to plow onto Town of Andover property, which I believe we have not done because we basically thought they were told where to plow. JT – Is the property line marked there? BM - The corners are marked; the business owner has used the Town land coherently. We had a professional surveyor who surveyed the line. JT – I don't mind having a conversation, was the fencing left open? BM – yes on the end and some of the stand alone poles were bent from a distributor running into it; we could ribbon it off, but it won't last due to the wind.

Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2026** were amended to change “Upton Brook” to ‘up the brook’ and approved by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – see amended change
Vote – Carried (Justin absent 2/3/26)
- **Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2026** by BM seconded by FD.
Vote – Carried

Wage Warrant #34

- **Motion to pay Wage Warrant #34** in the amount of \$6,621.13 made by BM, seconded by JT.
Vote – Carried

Financial Warrant #34

- **Motion to pay GPE \$1,880.00** made by BM, seconded by JT
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay Northeast Emerg Apparatus the amount of \$3,733.91** made by BM, seconded by JT
Discussion – BM – I will talk with Jim about the travel charges (7 hours); FD – annual inspection; pump testing the same day, they had to come back to fix the truck
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay Steve Swasey, Inc.** \$8,880.47 made by BM, seconded by JT
Discussion – some of it was for tearing up of sidewalk near the Town Hall
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay CN Brown \$1,542.63** made by BM, seconded by FD
Discussion – BM – were you able to get a hold of MPO? AC - I have a recording of the ‘lunch and learn’ and reached out to Per (Tripp) and tried to find out about where they are from – we did receive an invoice from them previously for \$50 membership fee – however, I thought it was a scam
Vote – Carried
- **Motion to pay the remainder of Warrant #34** in the amount of \$16,939.99 made by BM, seconded by JT
Vote – Carried

Old Business

- **Kyocera Contracts**

Motion to not renew the copier contract with Kyocera (ends February 2026) made by BM, seconded by JT
Discussion – AC - We spoke to them last Thursday and said they would be able to give us a printer for the Town Clerk (\$500) and a service contract (\$325) and the email today did not represent our conversation. FD – it is time to get some other quotes; recommend we do not renew the copier contract and have Melinda reach out to TRIO and request information on a printer that is reliable for TRIO needs; BM – I will reach out to Kyocera tomorrow regarding the contract

Vote – Carried

- **Sign-Off on Cell Phone Policies**

Discussion – JT – a minor change from the one sent to the board and secretary: update Violation Policy to Violation Process as we do not have a Violation Policy to refer to, this change is to avoid future hiccups; *Note - documents were signed and will be shared with employees at the 2/24/26 workshop with the board.*

- **2026 Budget Items Select Board**

On-going Discussion – (continuing from 2/10) - Town Hall Ramps, Town Office Ramps, Town Hall Ceiling, Town Hall stove and doors, Library building fund article

New Business

- **Non-Profit List & Status**

Motion to send all non-profits in our town a letter requesting an updated nonprofit status application and documents required to support their nonprofit status with the Town made by BM seconded by JT

Discussion – BM - send a letter to all non-profits in the Town to get updated nonprofit information including, but not limited to both churches, Pineland Ski Club, Andover Historical Society/East Andover School, Ellis River Riders, Andover Fireman’s Association, etc.

Vote – Carried

- **Northern Light Health Fees**

Discussion – AC –in the past we just paid when we used them; BM - is Northern Light doing the work? AC - Northern Lights it the company you contact and then you send them to the hospital and they do the test and they send the results to Northern Lights; BM - are they a company we must use? AC - Two ways – we join the state pool and get randomly drawn or request at any time for an employee to have a test and schedule through Rumford Hospital. I would like to call MMA tomorrow they offer the same, background checks: JT - costs for services, vs customer fees.

- **AVCOG HHW**

Motion to join and participate by BM, seconded by JT

Discussion – AC - historically it is how we have paid the fee and then our residents are allowed to go to 12 different sites bringing two things at no charge and we paid the charge; it was close to \$800 last year and only a few citizens participated, the other option is to have citizens bring and pay for their items.

Vote – Carried

- **Road Postings**

Motion to post town roads on March 2nd by BM, seconded by JT

Discussion – Good that Per notified Tony Carter to share about the frost clause; AC - we sent letters out to notify carriers in the past; BM – we can contract the truckers and Per said he will talk with the person who lives on Upton Road; AC – can drivers bring home over these roads their truck? BM – they can go home empty with it or we need to provide a place for them to park it.

Vote – Carried

Other

- **Public Works Project Grants**
Discussion – Town Office, Multi-use Court, and Town Hall paving are a few projects that may meet the qualifications to apply, town clerk offered to work on them if the board wanted to pursue it
- **MMA Abatement Response**
Discussion – waiting for response, see Justin’s update above.
- **Exempt from Property Tax Application**
Discussion –notifying the Board an updated form to apply for exemption was provided by O’Donnell’s

Adjustment to Agenda

- **Town Meeting Date**
Discussion – MA – 100 days from June 9th election but can shorten the time frame, a board decision by March 6th will work.

Executive Session

- **1MRSA 405 (6) A – Personnel Matters**
Motion to enter into Executive Session for 1 MRSA § 405 (6) A - personnel matter at 7:19 p.m. made by BM, seconded by FD
Vote – Carried

Exited Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

- **Motion** we pay the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Registrar of Deeds the \$1,750 for the approx. salary that we owe with the proposed wages of \$23,998 wages the Town voters approved last June to be put into paychecks going forward made by JT, seconded by FD
Discussion – JT - should we put in there that it is to be put into pay checks going forward? BM - Yes, we don't legally need to vote as the amount was set by the Town.
Vote – Carried

Adjournment

- **Motion** made to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. by BM, seconded by FD
Vote – Carried

Minutes Approved by:

Brian Mills, Chair

Date: _____

Justin Thacker

Frederick Detheridge

Task List for 2/17/26:

On-going

- Town Hall Roof Update
- Budget Items for 2026
- MPO findings (Amber)
- Work on updates to Personnel Policy Ordinance for employee workshop; next meeting is 2/24/26

Brian

- Following up with Josh/FEMA/District Manager regarding state bridge surface questions
- MMA regarding solar ordinance
- Contact Kyocera regarding contract ending on copier at Town Office
- Contract Treasurer regarding Town Clerk Pay

Justin

- Victualers and Lodging Policy progress
- Contact Swasey regarding plowing at Mills Market onto the Town property
- Contact candidate references

Fred

- Town Office TRIO printer recommendation (TBC) w/Melinda
- Provide Sue will info to sign up for GA training 3/11/26

Sue

- Look at cell phone purchase options for EMA/Town Office
- Create letter to KP about upstairs stove
- Pricing for electric stove for downstairs kitchen
- Quote for downstairs sink?
- Resolve copier/printer issues at Town Office
- Create letters for nonprofits for board to sign
- Sign Fred up for GA training on March 11th
- Letter to carriers using South Arm Road?
- Make copies of the cell phone policy for 2/24/26 employee workshop

Per

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

Melinda

- Rugs for Town Hall

Amber

- Contact candidate with update on interview process