

NOTICE  
Town of Lowell  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON  
Tuesday November 19, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.  
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

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**AGENDA:**

- Additions & Deletions
- Trustees inquiring to start bank account
- Sign Orders
- Solar project discussion
- New Zoning Member Discussion
- Review minutes from October 22, 2024, & November 4, 2024
- Road Commissioner updates
- Other Business
- Clarification of Job Duties

Selectboard:  
Wayne Richardson-Chm  
Darren Pion  
Jennifer Blay

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*MINUTES*  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF LOWELL  
Meeting held on November 19, 2024.

**Board members present:**

Wayne Richardson- Chm, Darren Pion, Jennifer Blay  
Christy M. Pion -Town Clerk/Selectboard Clerk/Ass't Treasurer  
Marie Busch-. Treasurer/Del. Tax Col./Ass't Clerk

**\*Note: All meetings are recorded on a handheld recording device.\***

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**GUEST:**

- Alden Warner-Resident
- Troy Adams-Zoning Member
- Sam Thurston-Zoning Member
- Wenzday Jane-Zoning Board Candidate
- Brenda Wesolow-Zoning Board Candidate
- Dotty Spoerl-Resident/Auditor
- Brandie Cochran-Library Trustee
- Jenn Higgins-Library Trustee
- Caleb Elder- All Earth Renewables

**Additions and Deletions:**

- **Alcohol Permit for General Store:** The Board approved a new alcohol permit for the Lowell General Store under new ownership, supporting local business transitions. The approval of the alcohol permit illustrates the town's commitment to supporting local businesses and ensuring smooth transitions during ownership changes.

**Trustees inquiring to start bank account:**

- Brandie Cochran, Library Trustee, suggested establishing a separate checking account for the library to improve financial management and reduce the workload on the town clerk's office. The board discussed existing account management practices of other entities. The Board suggested that they sit

with the Treasurer to look over the account to get a better understanding. Then from there they can discuss it with their other trustees to see if it will be actually worth it for them to have their own checking account. The Board reiterated that they are not saying no but would like them to know what they are getting into before making a final decision. The Board would like to revisit this discussion when they have done all of their research.

### **Solar project discussion:**

- The Board discussed a proposed solar project, focusing on decommissioning plans and potential impacts on property values. Concerns were raised about the absence of a clear decommissioning plan.
- The main purpose of this discussion of the Solar project was because of the 45 day response time for both the Selectboard and the Planning Commission. Caleb Elder, All Earth Renewables joined the meeting to answer any question both Boards may still have on the subject. After several questions and discussions both Boards came to the conclusion to write letters of approval in their own words, and each would send them separately when they were finished.

### **New Zoning Member Discussion:**

- Zoning Board Appointments: The Selectboard Board discussed appointing new members with the Zoning Board, highlighting the importance of diverse perspectives. The Board asked to here from both Candidates before making their final decision. Brenda Wesolow spoke first, well part of it is I work at home and with the pandemic I stayed at home too much and it's time for me to get out and be around people, but also I have been like I said around Lowell my whole life. Most of you people at this table know me and have known me forever and I came to realize I didn't know what was going on in the town of Lowell anymore and it bothered me. I mean I've raised three kids here. We've lived here for 26 years and I just I think I can be a benefit to the town, and I'd like to do that. Wenzday Jane spoke second, pretty similar situation, except for that I'm a recent transplant. I've been living here for two years. But I'd like to get more involved in the town, meet more people, and to be in service. I have some experience running my own business. I have some experience being on nonprofit board of directors. I thought this would be a good opportunity to put my skills to use and help contribute to the town. After hearing from both candidates, the Board made the unanimous decision to appoint both Brenda and Wenzday as new Zoning Members.

### **Sign Orders:**

- Financials for the Treasurer were approved and signed by the Board.

### **Minutes from October 22, 2024 & November 4, 2024:**

- Minutes from October 22, 2024, & November 4, 2024, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

### **Road Commissioner Updates:**

- Discussions included the town's responsibility for sanding roads and the associated liability risks, particularly regarding school property and community events.
- Other discussions included maintenance of the trucks and what was left to do before winter hits.

### **Other Business:**

- Adlen Warner, resident, came to ask the Board if they would be able to sand the church parking lot on Wednesday mornings for the local jam session. The Board explained the risks of doing this and that if we can't do it for the School because of the same risk they can't do it for the church parking lot either. Wayne did offer to come do it with his personal truck after he has finished with the Town plowing. Alden was happy with the offer and excepted it. Wayne also said that if Alden wanted to do it himself that he may grab some sand once a week for this event.

### **Clarification of Job Duties:**

- The board debated whether to adjust the pay structure for the Assistant based on the responsibilities and hours worked. In an earlier meeting discussions of pay was stated that after switching of the roles the pays would be changed but not what the pay would change to. In another meeting a few months ago the discussion was that if the Assistant cut her hours her pay rate would stay the same.

As one of the Board member was not present for that meeting, it was questioned if the Board had already agreed to these terms. 2 of the Board members stated that they would like to keep her pay as it is with the cut hours to 16 hours a week. They also stated that with her knowledge and experience she was worth keeping at her pay rate. Board was unanimous in this decision.

**Board Warrants:**

➤	General Order # 25	\$	1,491,414.58
➤	Payroll Order # 24	\$	<u>7,053.03</u>
		\$	1,498,467.61

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -

\* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerks office.\*

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion

Next meeting date: November 4, 2024, at the Town Office Building.

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Wayne Richardson – Chair

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Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

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Darren Pion-Select Person

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Jennifer Blay-Select Person