

**NOTICE**  
**Town of Lowell**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON**  
**Tuesday June 3, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.**

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**AGENDA:**

- Addition & Deletions
- Sign Orders
- Review Minute from May 6, 2025
- Road Commissioner Updates
- Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised
- Other Business

**Selectboard:**  
**Jennifer Blay-Chm**  
**Darren Pion**  
**Wayne Richardson**

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***MINUTES***  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF LOWELL**  
**Meeting held on June 3, 2025.**

**Board members present:**

Jennifer Blay- Chm, Darren Pion, Wayne Richardson  
Christy M. Pion -Town Clerk/Selectboard Clerk/Ass’t Treasurer  
Marie A. Busch-Town Treasurer/Ass’t Clerk

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

**Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.**

**GUEST:**

- Dotty Spoerl- Auditor
- Brenda Wesolow-Zoning Board Member
- Ashley Callahan-ACO/Ass’t Baseball Coach
- Courtney Richardson-Baseball Coach
- Lawrance Gebo-Camp/landowner Robtoy Rd
- Jim Blais-Gebo Son-in-Law
- Taylor Blais-Grandson to Gebo

**Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.**

**Animal Control**

**Issue:**

- Shyloh hasn't registered their dogs despite verbal and written warnings.
- Discussion:
- Dogs are loose and have been chasing kids.
- The process for ticketing and potentially removing the dogs is discussed.
- The shelter is currently full, creating a problem for housing seized animals.
- Action: Darren (previously the animal control officer) needs to issue a ticket. If problems persist, the dogs will be taken to the shelter. The need for a better kennel setup is noted.

## **Town Baseball:**

### **Issue:**

- A parent, Eric Willie, caused a disruption at a baseball game due to disagreeing with coaching decisions, leading to a forfeit.

### **Discussion:**

- The incident occurred on town property.
- The baseball league has been notified and supports the decision to redirect and then ask the parent to leave.
- The league could ban the parent from games, but there's concern about enforcement and the impact on the parent's child.
- There's a lack of a town policy to address disorderly conduct.

### **Possible solutions discussed:**

- Having Darren present at future games.
- Having someone with a good rapport talk to the parent.
- Putting a ban on the town website (if the league bans him).
- Having the parent attend a Selectboard meeting.
- Action: Continue following the league's guidance. Ashley and Courtney will remain open to conversation with the parent. The possibility of having the parent attend a Selectboard meeting if the behavior continues is raised.

## **Rob Toy Road Culvert Issue:**

- Issue: Residents are concerned about the condition of culverts on Rob Toy Road, which are causing road damage and threatening property access.

### **Discussion:**

- The culverts are undersized and prone to washing out the road.
- The road is classified as Class 4, limiting the town's responsibility and access to grant funding.
- A box culvert would be ideal but is too expensive.

### **Possible solutions discussed:**

- Adding stone to the road.
- Creating a relief point for water to overflow the road without damaging the culverts.
- Redirecting a spring that runs across the road.
- Involving the four-wheel club for assistance.
- Contacting other property owners on the road to increase pressure for action.

### **Action:**

- Jenn, Darren, and Wayne, will inspect the road. The possibility of adding stone and creating a relief point will be considered. The four-wheel club will be contacted.

## **Sign Orders:**

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

## **Minutes from May 6, 2025:**

- Minutes from May 6, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

## **Road Commissioner Updates:**

### **Road Salt Contract:**

#### **Issue:**

- The town needs to decide whether to participate in the state's road salt contract.

#### **Discussion:**

- The state is soliciting bids for road salt.
- The town needs to express interest by June 6th.
- The estimated annual salt usage is around 210 tons.

#### **Action:**

- Jennifer completed the form during the meeting.

## **Loss Control Inspection:**

### **Issue:**

- Following up on items from the loss control inspection.

### **Discussion:**

- Fire extinguishers are being serviced on June 10, 2025.

## **Road Commissioner Applications:**

### **Issue:**

- Reviewing applications for the Road Commissioner position.

### **Discussion:**

- Three applications have been received.
- Concerns are raised about the qualifications of the applicants; as we have not had any candidates at this time with all of the qualifications of a Road Commissioner that the town was seeking.
- The possibility of subcontracting is discussed but is not preferred.
- The need for better pay and benefits to attract qualified candidates is acknowledged.

### **Action:**

- The board will set up interviews with the applicants.

## **Road Commissioner Benefits:**

### **Issue:**

- Discussing the benefits package for the Road Commissioner position.

### **Discussion:**

- The current benefits package is not competitive with other towns.
- The possibility of increasing vacation time and sick time is discussed.
- The possibility of contributing to a deductible is discussed.

### **Action:**

- The board will consider increasing vacation time and sick time.

## **Road Commissioner Interviews:**

### **Issue:**

- Discussing the interview process for the Road Commissioner position.

### **Discussion:**

- The board will conduct interviews with the applicants.
- The interviews will be structured with a set of questions.
- The possibility of opening up the interviews to the public is discussed.

### **Action:**

- Christy will schedule interviews for June 16th. Jennifer will create a list of interview questions.

## **Other Business:**

### **Assessment and Taxes:**

### **Issue:**

- Property reassessments have significantly increased property values, leading to concerns about future tax increases.

**Discussion:**

- The town's assessments are outdated.
- The school tax is a major concern.
- The town's insurance costs are also discussed.

**Action:**

- Residents are encouraged to attend the grievance hearings to challenge their assessments.

**Town Audit:**

**Issue:**

- Update on the town audit.

**Discussion:**

- The audit is progressing well.
- The town is in good financial standing.
- The treasurer is commended for her hard work.

**Action:**

- None specified.

**Archie Powers Fund:**

**Issue:**

- The town is looking for better interest rates for the Archie Powers Fund.

**Discussion:**

- The current CD is at 3.95% APY.
- Better rates are available for CDs over \$10,000.
- The possibility of a fundraiser to increase the fund's balance is discussed.

**Action:**

- The town will consider a fundraiser to increase the fund's balance.

**Discussion:**

- The board discusses various other topics, including library funding, and town insurance.
- Truck weight permits that were approved and signed for the following: **RIGGS DISTLER & COMPANY, INC., AND DESROCHERS BULK SERVICE, INC.**

**Action:**

- None specified.

**\*\*Overall Conclusions:\*\***

- \* **\*\*Challenges:\*\*** The town is facing several challenges, including a lack of qualified candidates for the Road Commissioner position, limited resources for road maintenance, and concerns about rising property taxes.
- \* **\*\*Priorities:\*\*** The town's priorities include maintaining its infrastructure, providing essential services to its residents, and attracting qualified employees.
- \* **\*\*Approach:\*\*** The town is taking a collaborative and proactive approach to addressing these challenges. The board is actively seeking input from residents and exploring various options to find the best solutions.
- \* **\*\*Next Steps:\*\*** The board will continue to work on these issues in the coming weeks and months. The next steps include conducting interviews for the Road Commissioner position, inspecting the culverts on Robtoy Road, and exploring options for improving the town's benefits package.

**Board Warrants:**

	➤ General Order # 11	\$ 6,199.20
	➤ Payroll Order # 11	<u>\$ 4,554.29</u>
(5/20/2025) Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -		\$ 10,753.49
	➤ General Order #12	\$ 11,631.25
	➤ Payroll Order #12	<u>\$ 6,821.36</u>
(6/3/2025) Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -		\$ 18,452.61

\* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerks office.\*  
Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion  
Next meeting date: June 17, 2025, at the Town Office Building.

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Jennifer Blay – Chair

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Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

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Darren Pion-Select Person

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Wayne Richardson-Select Person