

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Monday, April 6, 2026, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

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AGENDA:

- **Additions & Deletions**
- **Sign Orders**
- **Review Minutes from March 23, 2026**
- **Discussion of paying half of Rabies Vaccine for ACO with Albany**
- **Equipment measurements for new garage build.**
- **Road Commissioner updates**
- **Other Business**
- **Public comment (Hand Raised)**

Selectboard:
Jennifer Blay-Chm
Darren Pion
Wayne Richardson

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on April 6, 2026

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
Levi Booska-Road Commissioner

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

Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Guest:

- Dottie Spoerl- Auditor/Resident
- Brian Richardson-Resident
- Annie Reicki-Resident
- Chris Collard-Resident
- Craig Matten-Resident
- Veronica Cote-Resident

Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.

- **Tailings Cap Access:** A resident inquired about continued public access to tailings and overburden. The current situation is that screening is not happening this summer due to a lack of trained personnel. Once training is completed, they can screen their own material. Overburden is available, but tailings are not currently in the pits. There's a discussion about ensuring payment for materials taken.
- **Material Tracking System:** There's a need for a system to track who takes materials and how much, with suggestions for load slips or a notepad system to record names, dates, and quantities.
- **Special informational Meeting:** A special informational meeting is planned for May 16th at 10 a.m. to discuss the garage location and gather public input. Visual aids will be used. The vote will be non-binding.

Updates From the Treasurer:

- **Replacement Items Update:** Marie updated the Board on how the replacement items pricing is going for the insurance company.
- **Email Access:** There's a discussion about accessing new town emails, with instructions given on how to log in via Outlook 365.
- **Fund Balances Policy:** A draft policy on fund balances is being developed, categorizing funds like restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.
- **Grant Applications:** Letters of intent have been sent for the Better Roads grant and the Grants in aid program.
- **Carter Road Grant:** Paperwork is being prepared to be submitted for payment.
- **Valley Road Grant:** This grant requires waiting for grass to grow for photos, which is causing delays.

Equipment measurements for new garage build:

- **Measurements:** The discussion revolves around the physical dimensions needed for the new garage, with a consensus leaning towards a 50x100-foot building with four bays, each approximately 20 feet wide.
- **Location:** Two potential sites are being considered: the "pit" (lower pit) and "original location" (current location of burnt building). The pit location requires Act 250 permitting, which will add time and cost. The current location might be faster to build this year.
- **Timeline:** It's acknowledged that building this year might be difficult due to the late start and the time required for permitting and construction. Building next year is a more realistic expectation if things don't move quickly.
- **Bidding Process:** Bids will be put out for debris removal (above grade) and potentially for foundation removal. The insurance company will inspect the foundation after cleaning up.
- **Foundation Decision:** A key decision point is whether to remove the existing foundation. The insurance company's decision will be crucial, and they may not provide more money if the foundation is removed.
- **Building Type:** Discussions include steel buildings, concrete buildings, and spray foam insulation, with cost being a significant factor.

Discussion of paying half of Rabies Vaccine for ACO with Albany:

- **Rabies Vaccine:** The Selectboard is in agreeance for paying half of the cost for a pre-exposure rabies vaccine for the Animal Control Officer (ACO), which is a preventative measure.

Sign Orders:

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

Minutes from March 23, 2026:

- Minutes from March 23, 2026, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates (Darren Pion & Levi Booska):

Road Work and Utilities:

- **Newton Road:** A hydraulic study is pending for a culvert on Newton Road. There's a concern about existing power lines crossing the culvert, which may need to be relocated or encased in concrete.
- **Green Hill and Carter Road:** Debris (old culverts, stumps, logs) has been removed from these roads, and fresh gravel has been added.
- **Hazen's Notch Road:** A soft spot near a culvert is being addressed.
- **Other Business:**
- Wayne updated the other board members that the test results came back with no asbestos in the debris of the burnt town garage.
- **Debris Removal Bids:** Bids for debris removal from the town garage will be advertised for two weeks, with bids due by Wednesday, April 29th, at 5 p.m. The project completion deadline is May 24th.
- **Blocked Culvert:** A blocked culvert on Carter Road near Blodgett was reported and is causing water to run down the ditch.

Other Business:

- **Sign Repair:** The town sign is being worked on by Doug, who is trying to diagnose why it keeps shutting off. He is in contact with the sign company and trying to get a motherboard to allow internal control.
- **Tire Event:** A tire collection event is being considered for the weekend of May 9th, coinciding with "green up" weekend.
- **Interviews:** Christy is starting interviews next week for the Assistant position.
- **Other Grant Applications:** Jenn Blay updated the Board members on her application to the Welch Grant asking for \$1,000,000.00 to help with the building of the new garage.

Permits:

- Truck weight permits were approved and signed for the following: **Desrochers, Inc., Harrison Redi-Mix Corp., Consolidated Communications, QXO Inc., Dan Pepin Excavating & Trucking, Fred’s Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Blow & Cote, Inc., D Pion Transport**

**** Overall Conclusions: ****

- * ****Garage Project is a Priority but Faces Delays:**** The new garage is a significant project, but permitting, site selection, and construction timelines suggest it's unlikely to be completed this year, especially for the pit location. The current location might offer a faster path to construction.
- * ****Public Input is Crucial for Garage Decision:**** A Special informational meeting is scheduled to gather public opinion on the garage location, as the decision will impact the community.
- * ****Financial Management is Being Streamlined:**** Efforts are being made to improve tracking of materials, manage finances through a fund balance policy, and secure grant funding.
- * ****Grant Funding is Actively Pursued:**** The town is actively seeking various grants to fund road improvements and other projects.
- * ****Infrastructure Concerns Remain:**** Issues with blocked culverts, power line crossings over waterways, and road base problems highlight ongoing infrastructure challenges that require careful planning and execution.
- * ****Safety and Prevention are Key:**** The decision to offer a pre-exposure rabies vaccine and the ongoing efforts to improve road safety demonstrate a focus on preventative measures.
- * ****Communication and Information Sharing are Improving:**** The meeting highlights efforts to improve communication through email access, better tracking systems, and the use of visual aids for informational meetings.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 7	\$	56,764.48
➤ Payroll Order # 7	\$	<u>6,529.72</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - \$ 63,294.20

* **Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerk’s office. ***

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: **Christy M. Pion**

Next meeting date: **April 20, 2026, at the Town Office Building.**

Jennifer Blay – Chair

Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

Darren Pion-Select Person

Wayne Richardson-Select Person