

**NOTICE**  
**Town of Lowell**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON**  
**Monday, April 20, 2026, AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.**

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**AGENDA:**

- Additions & Deletions
- Sign Orders
- Review Minutes from April 6, 2026
- Interview of Candidates for Assistant discussion
- Treasurer Updates
- Ballot Layout for informational meeting.
- Road Commissioner updates
- Other Business
- Public comment (Hand Raised)

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

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***MINUTES***  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF LOWELL**  
**Meeting held on April 20, 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 5:42 p.m.

**Guest:**

- Dottie Spoerl- Auditor/Resident
- Brenda Wesolow-Zoning/Resident
- Brian Richardson-Resident
- Arlon Warner-Resident
- Gordon Spencer-JP/Zoning Admin/Resident
- William Herrera-JP/Resident
- Lucas Dimauro-Visitor/Excavation Company Owner (Brownington, Vt.)

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

**Road Conditions concerns:**

- Significant concern from residents about numerous potholes on Valley Road, Kempton Hill, Road, & Carter Road: Frost boils are still present on Valley Road, Kempton Hill Road, and Carter Road, delaying full road maintenance until weather permits.

### **Interview of Candidates for Assistant discussion:**

- The town is looking to hire a replacement for the assistant position, a clerical/administrative role.
- Total number of applicants for the position was 5, with three backing out, and only two interviewed.
- Discussion about the salary offered for an assistant role, 16-18 hours, \$18-\$20/hour depending on qualifications.
- There was a discussion on whether to prioritize local residency or qualifications for town hires and the importance of clear job descriptions for performance management.
- The town has a treasurer and a clerk, and the need for an assistant to provide backup and cross-training is very important.
- The Clerk and Treasurer discussed with the Board the 2 interviews they had and have made a decision based on the outcome of the interviews. They both felt very strongly of their decision. Their decision was to hire Ashley Callahan. After hearing the Clerk and Treasurer's reasoning for their decision the Board agreed unanimously on the hiring of Ashley Callahan.

### **Updates From the Treasurer:**

- Donations were received for the Solar project Legal fees.
- Marie updated the Board on invoice that she had submitted to the insurance company for reimbursement.

### **Sign Orders:**

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

### **Minutes from April 6, 2026:**

- Minutes from April 6, 2026, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

### **Road Commissioner Updates (Darren Pion & Levi Booska):**

- A discussion about a spring on 58 causing issues and contributing to potholes.
- Beaver activity is causing problems on Tillotson Road, with trapping underway.
- The 10-wheeler truck failed inspection due to various mechanical issues (front axle, seals, suspension, brake lines, brakes, tie rod end, air hose). Repairs are needed, and there's a discussion about whether to do them in-house or send them out, considering cost and availability.
- Concerns about the condition of the 10-wheeler's brakes and potential for future issues.
- A discussion about the Bailey-Hazen Road being temporarily closed due to ATV use causing muddy conditions, with a debate about the official closure process and signage.
- Information about a "Safer grant program" for safety equipment was discussed and the Board Chair asked the Road Commissioner to look into it for more information.
- Jenn asked Levi about the amount of money charged for the roadside grinding, and if he took into consideration the budget that was available as she was expecting to spend a lot less on this project.

### **Other Business:**

#### **Town Building Project (Garage/Facility):**

- Ongoing discussion about the location and construction of a new town building.
- A legal requirement for a 45-day warning for any binding vote on the building's location.
- An informational meeting is scheduled for May 16th to present pros and cons of different scenarios.
- Debate on whether to have an Australian ballot vote or a town meeting vote.
- Consideration of different building types (steel, concrete, stick-built) and their associated costs and suitability.
- Concerns about Act 250 permitting and its potential delays (2-3 years).
- Discussion about the foundation of the old building and whether to remove it or to build on it, depending on the chosen location.
- The need for an engineer to provide cost estimates and permitting information.
- The potential for a steel building with a 4-foot frost wall is discussed.
- The cost of stormwater and wastewater management is a significant factor.

### **Foundation Removal discussion:**

- Discussion about the demolition of the old building's foundation, with insurance involved.
- The insurance company needs to inspect the foundation before removal can proceed.
- A discussion about the possibility of salvaging materials from the old building.

### **Green-up day cleaning:**

- A Green-up day is scheduled for May 2nd, with a dumpster available from April 29th to May 6th.
- The town will assist in picking up materials collected by volunteers.

