

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday October 7, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

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AGENDA:

- Addition & Deletion
- Sign Orders
- Review Minutes of September 23, 2025
- Road Commissioner Updates
- VLT farm project follow-up.
- Other Business
- Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised

Selectboard:
Jennifer Blay-Chm
Darren Pion
Wayne Richardson

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on October 7, 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
Levi Booska-Road Foreman/ Commissioner

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

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

Guest:

- Levi Booska (Road Commissioner)
- Sam Thurston (Resident/Zoning Member)
- Audra Pitts (Newport Daily Express)
- Steve Mason (Resident)
- Brian Richardson (Resident)
- Dottie Spoerl (Resident/Auditor)
- Brenda Wesolow (Resident/Zoning Member)
- Dylan McConnell (Property Owner)
- Carrie O'Brien (Vermont Land Trust)
- Rick Ufford-Chase (Mayor of Newport)

Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.

****Treasurer's Report (Marie Bush): ****

- Banking Resolutions: Increased ACH processing limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month.
- Invoices: Three invoices from Allegiance need review by Darren and Levi due to discrepancies.
- Bridge Accounting: Need to reconcile accounting for the bridge project due to discrepancies and unpaid invoices.
- Delinquency Tax Report: Delinquency tax report is printed out.
- Tax Sale: Discussed the possibility of tax sales and the cost/process with a lawyer.

****Property Tax Re-evaluation Request (Dylan McConnell): ****

- Dylan McConnell believes his property is overvalued, particularly the cabin structure.
- He missed the deadline for contesting the evaluation this year.
- He requested a waiver of penalty and interest due to bringing the issue to the meeting.
- The board cannot decide on the evaluation; it must go through the listers.
- The listers will re-evaluate the property in the coming spring.
- The board agreed to waive the penalty and interest.

****Newport Update (Rick Ufford Chase): ****

- Mayor Chase provided an overview of Newport's downtown revitalization efforts.
- The city is working on a new master plan with a focus on housing, commercial development, and public amenities.
- Tax increment financing (TIF) is being considered to fund public infrastructure improvements.
- The city is seeking input from surrounding towns and villages through a survey.
- The board expressed support for Newport's efforts and offered suggestions.

****Solar Field Project: ****

- A 30-acre solar field is planned for the Raboin property.
- The zoning board and select board missed the deadline to submit comments to the Public Utility Commission (PUC).
- The zoning bylaws do not address solar projects.
- The board discussed the project's benefits, impacts, and potential conditions.
- They agreed to meet with a representative from Northland Solar LLC next Tuesday.
- The Zoning board will contact the League of Cities and Towns to clarify their options.
- The board asked the Town Clerk to notify neighboring landowners about the upcoming meeting.
- The board will investigate the possibility of the vast trail being impacted.

Sign Orders:

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

VLT farm project follow-up:

****Vermont Land Trust (Carrie O'Brien) ****

- Vermont Land Trust seeks a letter of support from the town for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund project.
- The funds would be used to acquire the Farm in question formerly Highland Cattle Farm.
- The plan is to improve the farm, add water quality protections to the easement, and lease it to a qualified farmer.
- The board discussed the implications of a river corridor easement and the types of farming that could occur.
- The board voted to approve the letter of support.

Minutes from September 23, 2025:

- Minutes from September 23, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates (Levi Booska & Darren Pion):

- Valley Road repairs are complete.
- Carter Road will be starting on Monday.
- Discussion about shim coating one side of the road.
- The board discussed a culvert issue on Eden Road and a request for gravel on Guyette Road.
- The board will investigate the possibility of putting gravel on Guyette Road.

Other Business:

- The board agreed to waive the penalty and interest for a property tax payment that was less than one day late.
- The board discussed equipment maintenance and replacement.
- The board discussed ordering salt for the winter.

**** Conclusions: ****

- * The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including financial matters, property tax issues, economic development, and infrastructure projects.
- * The board is actively engaged in addressing the town's needs and concerns.
- * The board is committed to working with other organizations and municipalities to achieve common goals.

- * The board is seeking input from the community on important issues.
- * The board is facing challenges related to state regulations and limited resources.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 21	\$	16,875.13
➤ Payroll Order # 21	\$	<u>6,142.24</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - \$ 23,017.37

* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerk’s office. *
Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Christy M. Pion
Next meeting date: October 7, 2025, at the Town Office Building.

Jennifer Blay – Chair

Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

Darren Pion-Select Person

Wayne Richardson-Select Person