

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday June 17, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

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AGENDA:

- Addition & Deletions
- Vtrans Team Culvert replacement Rte. 100
- Sign Orders
- Review Minute from June 3, 2025
- Road Commissioner Updates
- Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised
- Other Business

Selectboard:
Jennifer Blay-Chm
Darren Pion
Wayne Richardson

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on June 17, 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 5:28 p.m.

GUEST:

- DOTTY SPOERL- RESIDENT/AUDITOR
- BRENDA WESOLOW- RESIDENT/ZONING BOARD MEMBER
- SONJA BLODGETT- RESIDENT
- MATT MORIN- J.A McDONALD INC.
- JASON PATENAUDE- J.A. McDONALD INC.
- STEPHANIE BARRETT- COUNT ON IT BUSINESS SERVICES
- GEORGE BARRETT- COUNT ON IT BUSINESS SERVICES
- AARON WEAVER-VTRANS
- ANDREW LEMIEUX-VTRANS PROJECT ENGINEER

Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.

- Makenna Blay, Assistant Librarian, joined the meeting on behalf of the Librarian and Library Trustees, to discuss with the Board on having an eBay account for selling 1st addition library books to help raise money for the Library to get new books.

Library eBay Account:

- **Issue:** The library wants to create an eBay account to sell special edition and first edition books to raise funds for new books. They believe they can get better prices online than at local book sales.

- **Discussion:** The library needs a bank account to link to eBay. Concerns are raised about creating a separate checking account due to auditing issues.
- **Solution:** The library will create a savings account with two library trustees as signatories. They will transfer the money from the savings account to the town account and credit the library fundraiser account.
- **Auditing:** The town auditor suggests keeping detailed documentation of book sales and withdrawals.
- **Clarification:** The library clarifies that they are only selling first editions to replace them with later editions, as well as moldy and outdated books.

Vtrans Team Culvert replacement Rte. 100:

- **Project Overview:** VTrans is replacing culverts on Vermont 100 south of the intersection with Vermont 58. The existing pipes are in poor condition and are being replaced with a single steel plate arch.
- **Schedule:** Pre-closure work is ongoing. The road closure is anticipated for the second weekend in July, lasting up to five days with 24/7 construction. One-way alternating traffic will follow until early August.
- **Detour Route:** A short local detour will use Lower Village Road and Hazen Notch Road.
- **Concerns:** Concerns are raised about truck traffic on the detour route, especially regarding the bridge on Lower Village Road. The corner of Lower Village Road and Vermont 100 will be widened to accommodate trucks.
- **Communication:** VTrans will provide weekly project updates via email. Contact information for Stephanie Barrett, the public information officer, is available in the Town office or on the VTrans website.
- **Resident Notification:** The town will contact residents along the detour route to inform them of the construction and potential impacts. Message boards will be placed to inform the public.
- **Road Maintenance:** VTrans has a maintenance of local roadway item in their contract with J.A. McDonald to repair any damage caused by the detour.

Sign Orders:

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

Minutes from June 3, 2025:

- Minutes from June 3, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates:

Better Roads Grant:

- **Award:**** The town was awarded a grant for better roads.
- **Requirements:** Specific documentation and photos are required for the final report.
- **Finance:** Marie, the treasurer, will handle financial aspects of the grant.

Road Commissioner Position:

- **Candidate Update:** Nigel Curtis, a candidate for the Road Commissioner position, sent an email with questions about the job.
- **Responses:** The board discusses and provides answers to Nigel's questions regarding hours, pay, and benefits.
- **Interview:** The board plans to schedule interviews with Nigel and AJ.
- **Benefits:** The town offers paid vacation and retirement benefits.

Road Commissioner Interview Questions:

- **Discussion:** The board reviews and revises the interview questions for the Road Commissioner candidates.

Winter Sand:

- **Issue:** Screening and storing winter sand.
- **Discussion:** The board discusses the efficiency of the current process and explores alternative locations for storing the sand.
- **Recommendation:** The board agrees to try storing the sand in the lower pit to reduce handling and trucking costs.
- **Coordination:** Someone needs to coordinate with Larry Lacross to remove his belongings from the pit area.
- **Power:** The board discusses the possibility of adding power to the lower pit for the loader.

Other Business:

Local Emergency Management Plan:

- **Update:** The local emergency plan is being updated.
- **Changes:** Changes include updating contact information for the school and removing a facility that is no longer available.
- **Signatures:** The Selectboard Chair signed the updated plan.

Robtoy Road Update:

- **Issue:** Repairing Rob Toy Road.
- **Plan:** The town will put one foot minus stone in a water spillway and braille six inch minus over the top of the culverts.
- **Responsibility:** The town will handle the stonework but may ask for assistance with chloride if the road is damaged by others. As of now Jennifer, the Board Chair and Wayne, selectboard Member are waiting for the Road Position to be filled before doing the work.

Class 4 Roads:

- **Issue:** Maintaining Class 4 roads, specifically Diette Road.
- **Discussion:** Sonja Blodgett wants to see Diette Road maintained as a class 4 road. Sonja's husband Ken also called one of the Board members about it earlier in the week.
- **Considerations:** The board discusses the classification of class 4 roads, the potential for increased traffic, and the cost of maintenance.
- **Survey:** The board decides do they want to conduct a town-wide survey to gather public opinion on whether to repair Diette Road or throw it up.
- **Cost Estimate:** Wayne will get a rough cost estimate from Craig for repairing Diette Road.
- **Survey Wording:** The survey will ask whether residents want to see Diette Road repaired or gated.

Grant List Extension Request:

- **Request:** An extension is needed for the grand list due to grievance hearings and possible appeal hearings.
- **Approval:** The Selectboard Chair signed the extension request.

Tax Sale:

- **Update:** A resident made a payment on their back taxes and will set up a payment plan.
- **Tax Sale:** The town is prepared to move forward with a tax sale if necessary.

Community Grills and Pavilions':

- **Project:** Installing community grills and Pavilions'.
- **Funding:** The project is funded by a grant.
- **Approval:** The board approved the project, even if it goes slightly over budget.

Mobile Primary Care Unit:

- **Proposal:** A mobile primary care unit is being proposed for rural underserved communities.
- **Input:** The state is seeking town input on the idea.
- **Concerns:** The Board expresses concerns about the cost, functionality, and potential impact on existing healthcare services.
- **Survey:** The Board suggests conducting a survey to gauge community interest.

Office Camera Completion:

- **Update:** Jason is working on finishing the camera set ups for the offices.
- **Assistance:** Darren or Wayne will help Jason with the work if needed.

****Conclusions:****

* The town is actively addressing various issues, including library fundraising, infrastructure improvements, emergency preparedness, and road maintenance.

- * The board is committed to gathering public input and making informed decisions based on community needs and financial considerations.
- * The board is exploring ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs in various areas, such as winter sand storage and road maintenance.
- * The board is working to fill the Road Commissioner position and address concerns about the condition of class 4 roads.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 13	\$	6,153.17
➤ Payroll Order # 13	\$	<u>4,554.29</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - \$ 10,707.46

* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerks office.*
Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion
Next meeting date: July 1, 2025, at the Town Office Building.

Jennifer Blay – Chair

Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

Darren Pion-Select Person

Wayne Richardson-Select Person