

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

**AGENDA:**

- **Addition & Deletion**
- **More Budget Discussion**
- **Special Vote Discussion**
- **Sign Orders**
- **Review Minutes of December 17, 2025**
- **Road Commissioner Updates**
- **Other Business**
- **Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised**

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

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***MINUTES***  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF LOWELL**  
**Meeting held on December 30, 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 Commissioner (In Training)**

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

**Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.**

**Guest:**

- **Dottie Spoerl (Resident/Auditor)**
- **Brenda Wesolow (Resident/Zoning Member)**
- **Alden Warner (Resident)**
- **David DiZazzo (Resident)**
- **Becky DiZazzo (Resident/Asst. Clerk-Treasurer)**
- **Alex Sicotte (Road Crew Member)**
- **Annie Riecke (Resident)**
- **Chris Collard (Resident)**

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

**\*\*Sanding of Churches and Fire Station: \*\***

- **Issue:** Alden Warner raised concerns about rumors that the town would no longer sand the churches and fire station due to insurance concerns.
- **Insurance Concerns:** It was stated that the town's insurance might not cover damage to non-town properties.
- **Waivers:** The board discussed obtaining waivers from the properties to absolve the town of liability.
- **Action:** The board agreed to contact VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) to get a waiver template and determine if waivers would suffice for insurance coverage. The church will also get a waiver from their insurance.

- **Town Meeting Article:** Alden Warner wanted to know if the board would put an article on the town meeting warning if they decided not to sand the properties, or if he would need to gather signatures for a petition.
- **Conclusion:** The board will pursue waivers. If waivers are not sufficient, they will consider adding an article to the town meeting warning.

#### **\*\*Solar Project: \*\***

- **Updates:** Jennifer Blay provided updates on the solar project, including the second round of discovery due January 2nd.
- **Schedule:** The schedule for the project is being revised, and the board is working to ensure that the town's concerns are addressed.
- **Fire Department:** The board discussed the fire department's preparedness for handling fires at the solar facility.

#### **Special Vote Discission:**

#### **\*\*Special Vote: \*\***

- **Issue:** The previous special vote on the solar project resulted in a tie.
- **VLCT Advice:** VLCT advised that the board could put the article back to the voters at another special or annual town meeting.
- **Discussion:** The board discussed whether to hold another special vote or put the article on the town meeting warning.
- **Conclusion:** The board decided not to hold another special vote because it would likely yield the same result and cost more money.
- **Legal Fees:** The board discussed the need for legal representation at the evidentiary hearing.
- **Funding:** The board discussed allocating funds for legal fees and the possibility of raising donations from the community.
- **Motion:** The board approved a motion to allocate up to \$10,000 for legal fees and to establish a legal fund with \$15,000 from the leftover budget and \$5,000 in the budget.

#### **More Budget Discussions:**

#### **\*\*Roads Budget: \*\***

- Levi Booska and Darren Pion provided updates on road maintenance and equipment.
- The board reviewed the proposed road budget, including income from state aid, contracted services, gravel pit maintenance, truck leases, and maintenance supplies.
- The board discussed the cost of plow blades and shoes and the possibility of finding cheaper suppliers.
- The board discussed the use of salt on roads and the logistics of loading sand and salt at the gravel pit.
- **Conclusion:** The board is generally satisfied with the proposed road budget.

#### **\*\*Admin Budget: \*\***

- The board discussed the admin budget and the need to finalize it at the next meeting.
- The board agreed to review all budgets at the next meeting on January 13th.

#### **Sign Orders:**

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

#### **Minutes from December 2, 2025:**

- Minutes from December 2, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

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

#### **\*\*Roads: \*\***

- The CV is now fixed and back to work.
- Lots of plowing and sanding due to recent storms
- Craig Matten was hired to do roadside tree cutting and brushing, which is now completed.

#### **Other Business:**

#### **\*\*Warned Items: \*\***

- The board confirmed that there were no new warned items to be added to the agenda.

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

- \* The board is actively addressing insurance concerns related to sanding non-town properties and is pursuing waivers as a solution.
- \* The board is working to finalize the road budget and ensure that the town's roads are well-maintained.
- \* The board is continuing to monitor the solar project and is seeking legal representation to protect the town's interests.
- \* The board is committed to responsible financial management and is taking steps to ensure that the town has adequate funds for legal expenses.
- \* The board is aware of the division in the town regarding the solar project and is trying to balance the interests of all residents.

**Board Warrants:**

➤ General Order # 27	\$	7,012.16
➤ Payroll Order # 27	\$	<u>10,297.21</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -	\$	17,309.37
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\* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerk’s office. \*

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Christy M. Pion

Next meeting date: January 13, 2026, 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